

ars Bring
own Bills



Since Their Sept. 27 Capture of the Afghan Capital, the Taliban Have Steadily Consolidated Their Grip on the Areas to the Immediate North of Kabul

Page 15

IRAN NEWS



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (R) Confers with Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Saud al-Faisal Dec. 29 to Discuss the Latest Developments in the Region

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Tuesday December 31, 1996, Day 11, 1375, Sha'ban 20, 1417

Iran Will Defend Its Territorial Integrity

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati reaffirmed Iran's commitment to take any measures inside its territories to safeguard the country's territorial integrity.

Addressing a press conference jointly with Tajik opposition leader Seyed Abdullah Nouri here yesterday, Velayati commented on the declaration of the Cairo Meet as "repetition of what has already been said" without solving any problem and only attempting to please the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

He noted that the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) commenced a two-day meeting in Cairo Saturday to discuss the peace process, the Qatar-Bahrain differences, and ways to bolster economic cooperation.

Velayati maintained that member countries meet every once in a while and come up with decisions that are futile and at times even

detrimental to regional development and cooperation.

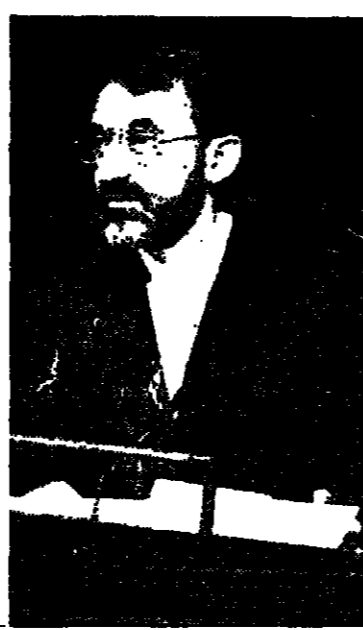
"Much of these moves and maneuvers are aimed at escaping from the realities existing in the Middle East," the foreign minister pointed out.

On installation of missiles on the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater and the Lesser Tunbs, the foreign minister said, "Iran's measures inside its territories are by no means offensive or expansionist. They are merely of a defensive nature."

He stressed that Iran's defense budget is by no means comparable to the sums allocated by regional governments to stockpiling modern weapons.

No Islamic government other than Iran has attempted to defend the rights of the Palestinian people, he said expressing pity that such meetings concentrate on issues which are not beneficial to the Arab nations.

Velayati stressed that these governments have for years tried to obtain concessions from Israel



VELAYATI

through so-called peaceful ways, while Israel has actually disappointed all those that have pinned hope on it.

On some signatories of the declaration which claim to be cordial with Iran, he said, "If countries which claim to be friends of Iran embark upon such measures, they actually overlook their own long-term interests."

Touching on his recent interview with the Egyptian Al-Shab

See Page 13

Habibi Holds Talks with Rakhmanov, Azimov, Rajabov

BY PARISA ALINIA

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN - Iran's First Vice President Dr. Hassan Habibi met with the leaders of Tajikistan here yesterday and announced Tehran's desire to promote economic ties with Dushanbe.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Tajik President Imomali Rakhmanov, Habibi said Iran was ready to make investments in Tajikistan.

He said the agreement signed between Tajikistan and the opposition has paved the way for investment by foreign countries.

A round of talks in Moscow produced a cease-fire agreement last Monday and a preliminary accord on a National Reconciliation Commission to oversee new elections.

The next round of talks on Jan. 5 in Tehran will focus on details of setting up the commission - a key step in the peace process.

Iran, like Russia, is an observer at the U.N.-mediated Tajik peace talks.

Habibi's discussions here are



HABIBI



RAKHMANOV

designed to pave the way for the Jan. 5 talks and will focus on the reconciliation commission.

The Iranian vice president also announced Tehran's readiness to help accelerate the Tajik peace process.

Iran and Tajikistan have signed 13 different protocols and Habibi called for implementation of those agreements.

The two countries underline regional security and want the regional issues to be settled through peaceful means.

Habibi arrived here Sunday on a three-day state visit at the head

of high-level politico-economic delegation.

Talks with Azimov
Habibi held his first round of talks with Tajik Prime Minister Yahya Azimov yesterday.

Azimov expressed hope that over 10 agreements would be signed during the negotiations with the Iranian delegation.

Azimov said his country was eager to use the Sarakhs-Tajan railway, boost trade, and set up air link between Tehran and Dushanbe and develop cooperation in banking, transport, tele-

See Page 13

Iran Has Been Liberated from Imperialism

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Iranian nation is proud to have been liberated from the shackles of satanic imperialist powers through Islamic Jihad and endeavors for reconstruction, President Rafsanjani told a huge congregation of citizens at Shirvan Chardaval, a district of Ilam Province here yesterday.

The President who is on an inspection tour of that western mountainous province, said by patience and perseverance against problems, the nation has permitted the sacred Islamic system to invest in large projects after the war ended.

He called the Basiji, Army and Revolutionary Guard forces the wealth of the nation, adding that by patience the nation has converted Iran into a giant reconstruction workshop.

Referring to the deprivation of

See Page 13



President Rafsanjani addresses the people of Ilam.

(Photo by Abdi)

FM Spokesman Blasts 6+2 Declaration

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran denounced the signatories of the Damascus Declaration inviting them to "dwell more deeply" on the critical and vital situation of the Persian Gulf region.

At the end of their two-day-long meeting, foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt and six Persian Gulf Arab countries called on Iran to avoid taking any steps endangering the security in the Persian Gulf region.

Dr. Mahmoud Mohammadi, Foreign Ministry's spokesman, said: "At a time when the Zionist



MOHAMMADI

regime's threats against the Arab world have increased drastically to the extent that its political and

See Page 13

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EDITORIAL

Why Is Abdulhalim Khaddam Coming Here After Syria Stabbed Us in the Back?

Eight Arab ministers criticized Iran Sunday at the end of their meeting in Cairo and the Iranian nation demands that the Foreign Ministry clarify our 'friendly ties' with certain countries whose representatives sing along with the well-known and discredited anti-Iranian Arab chorus.

As usual, criticism against Iran was made after a meeting in Cairo on baseless charges with no evidence whatsoever. The eight Arab states on Sunday said that Iran has deployed missiles on three of its Persian Gulf islands.

Iran and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) have some sort of misunderstanding over one island, but there is nothing in Iran's policy that could be construed as a threat to her neighbors on the southern shore of the Persian Gulf. The six members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, together with Syria and Egypt, issued a statement at the end of a two-day ministerial meeting to express their 'strong concern' about Iran's deployment of ground-to-ground missiles in the Persian Gulf.

The aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf War gave birth to the organization of the 6+2 or the so-called Damascus Declaration.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the U.A.E., Kuwait, and Oman are the members of the 6+2 along with Syria and Egypt.

The basic objective of the 6+2, as declared in 1991, was to maintain stability in the Persian Gulf. But this 'objective' has been turned around by the organization and is now a tool in the hands of Americans who are using it to change the regional crisis from Arabs vs. Israel to Arabs vs. Iran.

But the question is whether the members of the 6+2 have the inclination and the intestinal fortitude to maintain peace and stability in the region.

Despite the fact that the six Persian Gulf countries purchased weapons worth \$40 billion after the Persian Gulf War, they are still impotent and vulnerable against any military threat.

Their collective impotence and incompetence was proven in the face of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait in 1990.

The same is true of Syria and Egypt whose lands were occupied by the Zionist regime and their governments remained paralyzed in their confrontation with the Zionist entity. Egypt, however, got its lands back after its infamous and humiliating accord of 1978. But Syria, despite claiming to be one of the front-line states in the struggle against the Zionist regime is still acting passively.

We are really surprised to see Qatar, Oman and Syria make claims of friendship with Iran and at the same time cast their votes along with those countries who are known Iran haters.

The chameleon-like behavior of these Arab countries, particularly Syria, is astonishing considering Tehran's pro-Arab stances which at times are damaging to Iran's own national interests. Iran has been defending the rights of Syria at all

See Page 13

Leader Honors Martyrs of Tehran Province

TEHRAN - Leader of Islamic Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, yesterday emphasized the need for preservation of Islamic and Revolutionary values and honoring the martyrs of the Revolution and the Sacred Defense.

Addressing the members of the Headquarters for Honoring Martyred Commanders and the 36,000 citizens of Tehran Province who lost their lives during the war, the Leader said sacrifices made by the

martyrs of the Sacred Defense are specially valuable since their motive was to preserve and secure Almighty's Divine religion.

He said holding congresses to remember the heroic deeds of our martyrs is an important and necessary policy because life's everyday problems tend to dim the memories of the martyrs' sacrifices.

Ayatollah Khamenei praised all
See Page 13



Majlis Speaker Receives WAB Members

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
 TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nouri received the executive and members of Women's Affairs Bureau (WAB) of the President's Office here yesterday.

He praised the efforts of WAB in resolving problems facing Iranian women, and said their activities are "very positive and constructive."

"The views of the holy Prophet of Islam and his infallible Household on women have been distorted so much in the course of history that women have been the

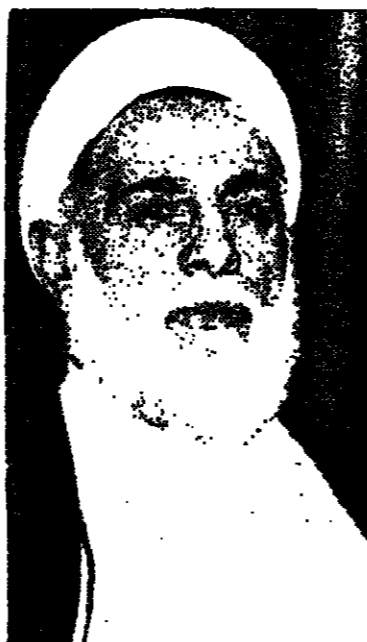
subject of oppression and injustice for years," the Speaker continued.

Criticizing Western models for treating women which considers them as commodities, he said, "Because of their great cultural and political understanding, Iranian women have always ignored Western patterns."

Discussing the burgeoning presence of women in a whole array of political, cultural, social, scientific and economic activities in the country, Nateq-Nouri referred to "Islam's special attention to the status of women in the society," adding that in the post-Revolution era Iranian women have consistently proven their maturity of mind.

Accentuating the establishment of a centralized bureau in the country for monitoring women's affairs, the Speaker said ratification of the formation of a special commission for women and families by the Majlis, as well as fixing the rate for women's marriage portion were sufficient testimony to the positive actions taken by the Fifth Term of the Legislature in strengthening the position of women.

Hojatoleslam Nateq-Nouri concluded: "Women's participation in social, political, cultural and economic activities should not hinder their main occupation which is to educate and train their children as Iran's future policy-makers."



NATEQ-NOURI

Majlis Must Prevent Creation of Deficit and Disguised Inflation in Budget Law

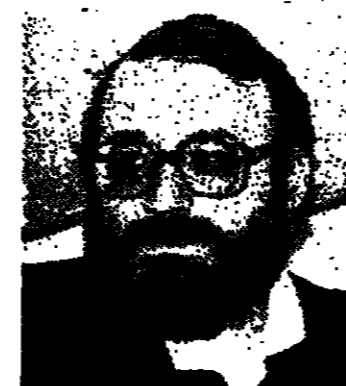
IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
 TEHRAN - The Economics Section of the Research Center of the Majlis is going to start its operation soon, announced Dr. Mohammad Javad Larjani, MP for Tehran and head of the center.

He said: "Presence of a number of centers for calculation of macro-indices would lead to more accurate assessments."

He said: "The Research Center has so far given 17 reports on the 1376 budget bill to the MPs. It has also given a number of detailed reports to the specialist committees of the Majlis."

He said: "There are a number of important recommendations about drafting the budget. The first is that it must be within the framework of the Second Plan. The second point is lowering the liquidity and the government expenditures. If this is observed it will have a great effect on reduction of the inflation."

"The Majlis and the MPs in their decisions must prevent crea-



LARJANI

tion of deficit and disguised inflation in the Budget Law.

"The MPs should pay careful attention to having an economic growth rate according to the Second Plan. Because irregular growth and above the plan law is not always a positive thing."

He stressed drafting the budget must be regionalism. The MP said some of the budgets must become provincial and that distribution of the national projects

See Page 13

Best Locations to Be Allocated to Mosques

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
 TEHRAN - In a Cabinet meeting here Sunday it was decided that in the design of new towns or areas to be reconstructed, the most suitable locations will be allocated for construction of mosques.

Natural and legal persons who decide to build mosques will pay the minimum rates for public utilities. They can also use low-rate banking facilities. Expenses by such persons will be accepted as expenses for tax calculations.

Meanwhile, health authorities have ordered some 40,000 mosques in Iran to ban smoking

and ensure that cleanliness on the premises is up to hygiene standards.

The smoking ban in mosques is a "sign of respect" for the Muslim prayer sites, the Health Ministry said in its directive yesterday.

Under the new rules, mosques' trustees boards are obliged to see that staff wear clean uniforms and have access to liquid soap and clean towels for ablution before prayers.

In addition, the toilets must be cleaned and disinfected on a weekly basis and soft drinks must be served in disposable cups.

Future of Afghanistan Not Clear

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
 TEHRAN - A senior official at the Iranian Foreign Ministry called on Afghan groups, especially the Taliban, to end hostilities before all the possibilities for unanimity are destroyed, the Persian daily Iran reported yesterday.

"Tehran insistently urges Afghan groups to stop conflicts and the Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no efforts in this connection," the daily quoted Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi as saying.

He emphasized no bright prospect can be expected for the future of the country as long as regional countries and Afghan groups fail to reach an agreement for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan.

Boroujerdi referred to the meeting of the foreign ministers of

Iran, Turkey and Pakistan, to be held in Ankara on January 5, 1997, as an prominent effort by the three countries.



BOROUJERDI

According to IRNA, the meeting is to discuss developments and resolving the crisis in Afghanistan.

Iran's Annual Production of Petrochemicals Stands at \$2b

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
 TEHRAN - Due to the high quality and low transportation cost Iran has overtaken Western competitors in marketing its petrochemical products in China, South Korea, India and Taiwan, managing director of Iran's Petrochemical Commercial Company, Majtaba Khosrouitaj, said here yesterday.

The company has exported \$335 million worth of petrochemicals in the past nine months whereas the exports in the same period last year was at \$300 million, he added.

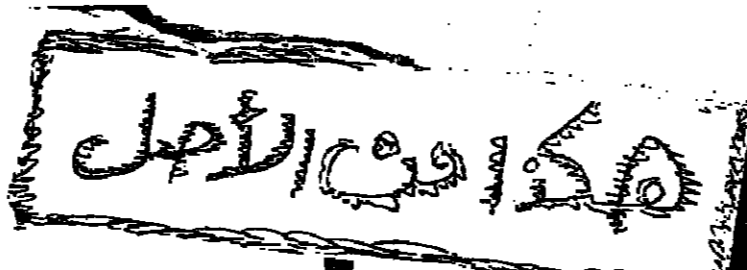
Khosrouitaj predicted that the petrochemical exports would exceed \$500 million in the current Iranian fiscal year (March 1996-

March 1997) up by \$90 million compared to the last year.

He said the total amount of petrochemicals produced in Iran in the past nine months stood at eight million tons, up by 20 percent in comparison with the corresponding period last year.

The rise in production was due to the high efficiency of Khorsan Petrochemical Complex and Aromatic unit in Bandar Imam Khomeini and The current year's production will exceed 10.5 million tons, he said.

He said the total cost of the production in petrochemical sector stood at \$1.45 billion in the past nine months and it would reach \$2 billion by the year end



Velayati, Nouri Confer on Tajik Peace Agreement

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The visiting Tajik opposition leader Abdullah Nouri held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on a peace agreement, signed in Moscow last week with the Tajik president, on the eve of the forthcoming inter-Tajik peace talks, due to be held in Tehran.

Nouri, speaking on peace agreement, appreciated Iran's mediation efforts to bring the inter-Tajik crisis to an end.

Nouri calling for further assistance of Iran to the parties involved for reaching a lasting settlement, said the Iranian-brokered ceasefire agreement reached in Tehran between the belligerent parties served for peace and calmness in the republic.

Velayati welcomed the Moscow peace agreement and hoped that the two parties would reach compromise for bringing about a just and stable peace to Tajikistan.

Velayati voiced Iran's readiness to help consolidate peace in the republic so as to go ahead with reconstruction programs in the war-torn republic.

Deputy leader of the Tajik opposition Akbar Turajonzoda was also present at the meeting, IRNA reported.



Velayati (L) with Nouri (C) and Turajonzoda (Photo by Hatami)

Iran a Major Route for Export of Kazakh Oil, Nazarbayev

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - Iran is one of the major routes for Kazakh oil exports and necessary preparations have been made for Iran-Kazakhstan oil exchange deal, said Nursultan A. Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's president.

The president, speaking at a press conference, said that his

country is to deliver oil to Iran via southern coasts of Caspian Sea and in return receive the same amount at the Persian Gulf for export to world markets.

Based on the agreement signed between the two sides the exchange of oil will start from Wednesday, January 1, 1997, and Kazakhstan has chartered some oil tankers from Russia for this purpose.

Iran's Ambassador to S. Korea Appointed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - At the proposal of Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and approval of President



ANGAJI
H. Hashemi Rafsanjani, Seyed Javad Ahgaji was appointed Iran's ambassador to South Korea. He was formerly state minister for foreign minister, Tabriz representative in fourth term of the Islamic Majlis (a member of the Presiding Board of Majlis), and deputy agriculture minister.

Seminar to Promote Irano-Italian Exports

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - Iran and Italy will hold the first Seminar and Exhibition on promotion of exports January 5 through 7 at the Tehran Laleh Hotel.

The seminar, which is to be attended by a host of trade and economic experts from Iran and Italy, is organized by the chambers of commerce of both countries and aims at the qualitative enhancement of export goods to European

See Page 13

Qeshm Medical Research Center to Open

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Persian Gulf Medical Research Center, the largest in the Middle East, will be operational within the next two years, it was announced here yesterday.

This center is currently under construction in the southern island of Qeshm, IRNA reported.

"The goal of the center is to meet medical needs of the islanders. It also offers medical service and medical science courses to people throughout Iran and the

Persian Gulf littoral states," said Fathollah Hakami, head of the project.

More than 1,000 Iranian physicians residing abroad have so far announced their willingness to work in the research complex, Hakami said.

He stressed that the rich coral resources of the island and various marine plants of Qeshm provide excellent conditions for pharmaceutical research and production of medicine.

FTZ Law, Among Most Progressive Laws in the World

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - The law governing free trade zones, recently approved by the Majlis, is the most progressive legislation in the world, says Akbar Peymanpour who has built the Marjan Complex at Kish Island.

Peymanpour is one of the five executives who started development work in Kish in 1989.

Peymanpour who has spoken to the Kish News Supplement has said that it is necessary to employ experienced and well-informed management to absorb foreign capital in the island.

According to Peymanpour reconstruction and development of Kish Island has been really eye-catching, but despite commercial activities there the increased customs tariffs and few number of flights to the island have stagnated business in Kish and these two problems needs to be solved.

Marjan (coral) Complex is employing the Safavid architecture and contains 322 commercial units, two restaurants outside the



PEYMANPOUR

market and two within the market and 90 percent of the units are equipped with bedrooms and stores.

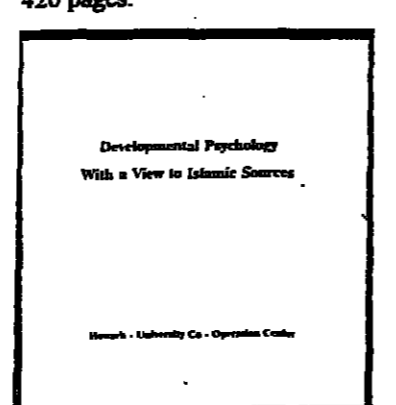
Asked why he had named it Marjan Complex, he said because he was much attached to the corals in the encircling sea.

Kish Island enjoys the most attractive and beautiful shores and can be converted into the best tourist and commercial resort in the globe, Peymanpour is quoted as saying.

Book Review

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Center for Compilation of Books on Humanities (SAMT) has recently sent three new books to IRAN NEWS.

Marketing Management, compiled and translated by Dr. Ahmad Roosta, Dr. Davar Venous, Dr. Abdol-Hamid Ebrahimi, falls into thirteen chapters, spanning over 420 pages.



In the Introduction, the authors note that "marketing is highly imperative for all companies and organizations which intend to have a conscious presence in the market without yielding to change".

SAMT Forwards New Books to IRAN NEWS

"In the present-day market, marketing is very exigent for any conscious and goal-oriented activity, since this market transcends all borders and has no particular customer in mind. Market globalization is gradually unfolding," the authors point out.

The book, according to the authors, has been written in simple language and in compatibility with the Iranian culture.

Some marketing cases related to Iranian and non-Iranian companies and organizations have been set forth to acquaint the readers with new and old marketing issues, concepts, principles, theories, and approaches.

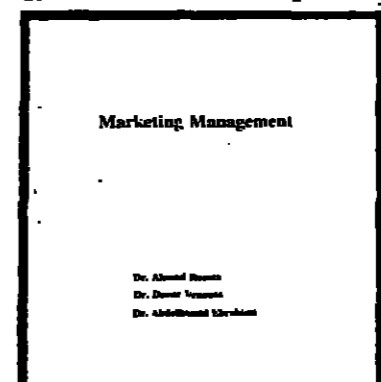
Marketing Management, first published in fall 1375, with a circulation of 5,000 bears a price of 7,000 rials.

Human Resource Management, which has been written by Dr. Efsthandir Saadat includes twelve chapters respectively entitled "Nature of Human Resource Management", "History of Human Resource Management", "Job Analysis", "Process of Human Resource Planning", "Recruiting the Personnel", "Selection and Choice", "Sociali-

zation", "Personnel Training", "Performance Evaluation", "Reward System", "Wage and Salary Management", "Discipline".

This book was printed in fall 1375 with a circulation of 5,000 and a price of 6,000 rials.

Developmental Psychology with a View to Islamic Sources, has been compiled by the Howzeh-University Cooperation Center (Volume II) and clarifies the principles and key discussions of developmental psychology with reference to Islamic concepts.

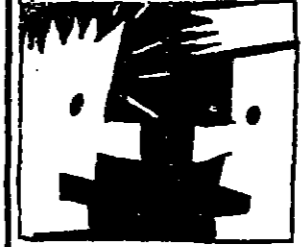


This volume begins with Chapter 15 and runs through to Chapter 26. Titles of the chapters are respectively "Development of

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	12:08
Evening (Maghreb)	17:23
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:36
Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:14

TÊTE-A-TÊTE



Back Off, Big Satan!

"Sir, listen to this: "For too long the State Department of the United States has arrogated to itself the right to pronounce on what is happening around the world... when voices from Washington impinge on the conduct of political relations within sovereign states, the latter have cause to feel aggrieved, annoyed or bloody angry depending on the wording, tone, timing and purport of the offending comments."

"Are you quoting some fundamentalist newspaper published in the Islamic Republic of Iran?"

"Oh, no! Those sentences are from an editorial in the STRAITS TIMES, a Singapore leading paper, under the heading 'Back Off, Uncle Sam'."

"I see! Tell me, do you happen to like your Singaporean colleagues?"

"Why, there is no reason why I should not."

"O.K. Then tell them: be ready to be called 'sponsors of terrorism', if you keep up talking like that about the United States Satan!"

ABU SINA

Imam Khomeini International Congress to Open in June

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Simultaneously with the eight anniversary of the demise of the late Imam Khomeini (R.A.) on June 3, 1997, the International Imam Khomeini Congress on Revival of Religious Thoughts will commence in Tehran.

Announcing the above to reporters, Dr. Ahmad Ahmadi, secretary of the congress, said propagation of the influence of the Imam's way of thought in different fields and revival of religion is the most important objective of the congress.

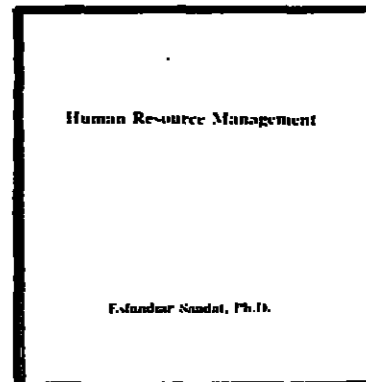
Stressing the need to study the different dimensions of the Imam's personality, Ahmadi said so far 750 papers and dissertations have been sent to the congress

secretariat from within and outside the country with regard to the late Imam's personality.

The secretary called on Muslim scientists and scholars to forward their papers to the secretariat not later than March 10.

"Imam Khomeini's role in returning the Muslims to their true cultural and ethical identity, his influence in revival of Islamic dignity of freedom-seeking movements and Muslim combatants, Imam Khomeini and revival of struggle against poverty and restoration of Islamic justice are the highlights of the congress," said Ahmadi adding that the 2-day congress is organized by the Department of Compilation and Publication of Imam Khomeini's Works.

Learning", "Piaget's Developmental Theory", "Data Processing", "Language Development", "Intellectual Development", "Social Development", "The Family", "Peers", "Personality Development", "Sex Role Development", "Moral Development", "Psychological Pathology of Development".



The book ends with a list of sources and references and a glossary.

This book which has 1206 pages is available at 11,000 rials.

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Industries Contribute 18% to GDP



NEMATZADEH

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Share of industries in gross domestic product (GDP) is currently 18 percent and is expected to reach 25 percent by the end of the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1995-1999).

Minister of Industries Mohamadreza Nematzadeh further said on Sunday that the share was 10

percent during the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war.

Stressing importance of industrial designing and its role in industrial development, he said so far 800 engineering designing units, 80 research and renovation companies as well as 500 research and development centers have been set up at various factories.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs on Sunday announced that Iran's GDP growth rose from 1.6 percent in 1994 to 4.5 percent in 1995.

In a report to a meeting in the market regulation headquarters, the ministry also said that the growth in value added to the industry and mine sectors rose from 4.9 percent in 1994 to 5.7 in 1995. The added value in the agriculture sector had a significant growth from 2 percent in 1994 to 3.7 in 1995, the report added.

It also said that the added value in services declined from 2.5 percent in 1993 to 1.2 in 1994, mainly due to the decrease in activities of middlemen and brokers.

Analyzing the government policies on stabilizing the foreign currency exchange rates and providing the foreign currencies needed for manufacturing units to increase the production, the report concluded that the Iranian economy would continue to grow positively.

1,688 Tons of Pickled Hides Exported

HAMEDAN (IRNA) - Some 1,688 tons of pickled hides, worth over 10.6 billion rials, have been exported from this western province during the past nine months, it was announced here yesterday.

Abdolkhossein Habibi, head of provincial Institute of Standard

3,528 Tons of Non-Oil Goods Exported from Bushehr in a Month

BUSHEHR (IRNA) - Some 3,528 tons of various non-oil products, worth 2.65 billion rials, were exported from this southern port during November 21-December 20, 1996, it was announced here yesterday.

Fereydoon Bolghari, director general of provincial Institute of Standard and Industrial Research said dried fruits, fruits and vegeta-

See Page 13

Foreign Exchange Rates

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The following are the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Monday.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates		Export Rates	
		SELLING	BUYING	SELLING	BUYING
Australia	dollar	1,399	1,392	2,401	2,389
Austria	schilling	161	160	278	274
Belgium	(100)francs	5,480	5,459	9,418	9,371
Canada	dollar	1,283	1,276	2,202	2,191
Denmark	krone	296	294	507	505
France	franc	335	333	574	571
Germany	mark	1,128	1,122	1,936	1,926
Italy	(100)liras	115	114	197	196
Japan	(100)yen	1,528	1,520	2,622	2,609
Netherlands	guilder	1,005	1,000	1,725	1,716
Sweden	krone	257	255	440	438
Switzerland	franc	1,303	1,296	2,236	2,224
U.K.	pound	2,958	2,941	5,075	5,050
U.S.	dollar	1,755	1,750	3,015	3,000
U.A.E.	dirham	479	476	804	802

PROMOTIONAL ITEM

Following the visit made by the senior directors of the Institute for Standards and Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI), Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. (RKC) has now gained the grounds for receiving the license to carry the honorary standard mark. Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. (Khavar Spinning Co.) is one of the largest factories in Iran for spinning cotton, cotton polyester and viscose polyester.

The senior directors of the ISIRI who paid a visit to Reesandegi-e Khavar Co., located at km 6 on Fuman Road, were accompanied by Mr. Sho'aei, the managing director of the Institute for Standards and Industrial Research in Gilan and some other experts in this field. Morteza Tabrizi, the director in charge of inspecting and supervising the quality of imports and exports, and Rasool Sazvar, the director in charge of quality control and arranging honorary standards were also among the visitors who visited the different departments of the factory and closely examined the spinning procedures.

They also made the preparations for granting this company the license for carrying the honorary standard mark by taking samples and making technical reports. For a better acquaintance with the activities of RKC, the statements made by the senior directors of the ISIRI, the managing director of this institute in Gilan, and the managing director of the company itself, follow.

Promising Future
Morteza Tabrizi, the director in charge of inspecting and supervising the quality of imports and exports, referred to the manufacturing potentials of RKC and said, "Currently, the dedicated managers and hard-working personnel have elevated the qualita-

The Precious Efforts of Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. (RKC) Look Eye-Catching

tive and quantitative measures of production to a remarkable level in this factory. This gives the promise of a bright future for the company and indicates the efforts by Irani-

pany keeps its high standards." **Gratitude**
Rasool Sazvar, the director in charge of quality control and arranging honorary standards, ex-



Mr. Tabrizi and Mr. Sazvar, the senior directors of the ISIRI, together with Mr. Sho'aei the managing director of Gilan's Institute for Standards and Mr. Kalishami and Mr. Roohi the directors of RKC in the manufacturing facility

ans for promoting non-oil exports."

The License for the Standard Mark

On receiving the license to carry the honorary standard mark by RKC, Mr. Tabrizi said, "Considering its status quo, this company has applied for the license to carry an honorary standard mark. In our visit we prepared a report containing all the technical details about the quality and quantity of the products in Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. along with its potentials. Further decisions will be made in expert analyses. But with regard to its present situation, it can be said that Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. has now gained the grounds for receiving the license for its products to bear the standard mark. This won't be out of reach if the com-

pressed his gratitude to Mr. Kalishami, the managing director of RKC and other members in this manufacturing unit and said, "I truly thank all the directors and officials here specially the managing director of the Institute for Standards and Industrial Research in Gilan who made ready for this visit."

Referring to the precious efforts of the managers and personnel in Reesandegi-e Khavar Co., he said, "This is a very successful manufacturing unit that offers a vast range of products. We hope that it will soon receive the license to carry the honorary standard mark as it observes all the relevant regulations."

The Capabilities of Gilanis
Noting the background of RKC, Mr. Sho'aei, the managing director of the Institute for Standards and Industrial Research in Gilan said, "With the efforts of its

polyester. This shows that Gilanis are capable of playing a special role in the field of industry and promoting the non-oil exports. This is just the beginning since the company is going to make greater achievements drawing on its capabilities and the close cooperation and conformity of its managers and dedicated personnel.

About applying for different standard certificates he stated, "The present trend of improvement will soon enable to company for increasing its export activities as well as applying for ISO 9000 Certificate."

The Company's Merits

The managing director of the Institute for Standards and Industrial Research in Gilan described the merits of RKC:

"Conformity, unity, close co-

Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. has now gained the grounds for receiving the license to carry the honorary standard mark.

operation with revolutionary institutes, and the hard work of managers and personnel have been the keys to this company's success. All this shows that Muslim youngsters can successfully lead the activities in manufacturing units."

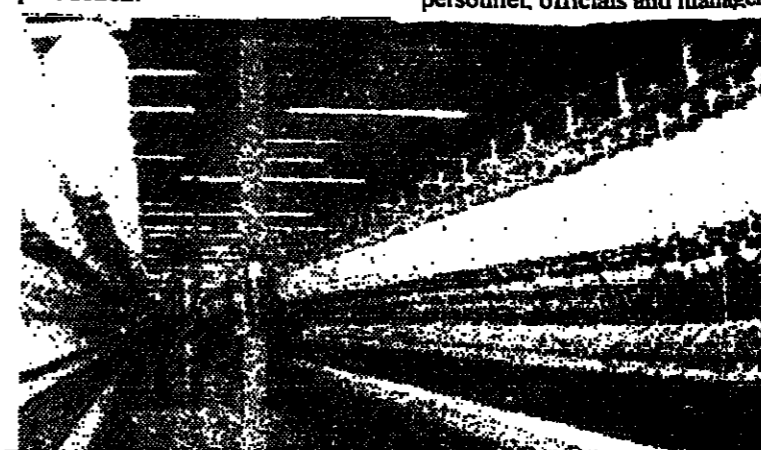
Further Acquaintance with RKC

Mr. Kalishami, the managing director of the company thanked all the visiting officials and said, "Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. (lim-

The products of RKC were welcomed in the European markets.

ited liability) is affiliated to Bank Sanat va Madan (The Bank of Mines and Industries). It manufactures 14 tons of congenial No. 20 threads (from cotton, cotton polyester and viscose polyester) in three working shifts and has 700 of dedicated employees. This com-

will have 25 percent increase in production."



Another view of the production lines in Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. (RKC)

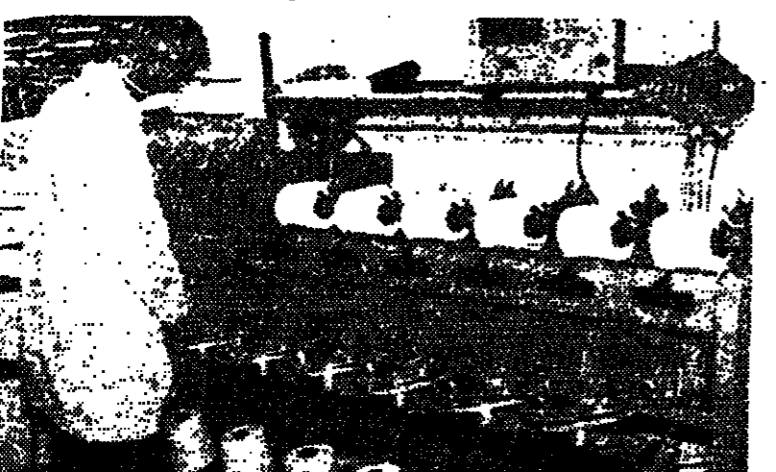
Creating Motives

Believing in the positive effects of creating motives for employees the managing director of RKC said, "Once the employees make sure that their employers truly care about them, many problems will be settled. In order to strengthen and incite the workers' spirits and motives, this company has provided different means of convenience for the employees this year namely paying one billion rials as housing loans, marriage loans, treatment costs ... It also has created an intimate atmosphere in the factory and arranged insurance coverage for life, accidents, medical treatment and social security. We have also established consumers and housing cooperatives, practical and theoretical training courses in different levels and job categorization programs with complementary blue prints all of which proved to be very fruitful."

Stock Exchange and Granting Shares to the Employees

About entering the Tehran Stock Exchange and granting shares to the employees, the managing director of Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. said, "Our company has made the arrangements for entering the Stock Exchange and we expect that next year we will start granting shares to the employees according to the regulations, accept subscription for shares and turn to a public joint stock company."

Regarding the importance of non-oil exports he said, "We all must try our best to promote the non-oil exports so we can make greater accomplishments in line with the policies of our government." At the end he appreciated all the close cooperation with Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. by different personnel, officials and managers.



The quality-control laboratory in Reesandegi-e Khavar Co.

The managing director of RKC, conformity, unity and the close cooperation of the personnel and the managers have been the keys to our success.

hard-working managers and personnel, Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. has now turned to one of the largest spinning factories in the country that manufactures threads of cotton, cotton polyester, and viscose

pany is now regarded as one of the largest factories for spinning cotton, cotton polyester and viscose polyester across the country.

Reesandegi-e Khavar Co. is one of the founders of setting

کدام اول

Exchange Rates

Country	Rate
U.S.	1.00
Germany	1.66
France	6.55
Italy	1.36
Spain	166.64
Japan	106.48
UK	0.79
Canada	0.71
Australia	0.75
South Africa	1.47
India	47.54
China	8.27
Indonesia	1,547.80
Malaysia	2.34
Philippines	46.48
Singapore	1.36
Thailand	54.78
Turkey	1.36
South Korea	1,067.36
Hong Kong	7.76
Taiwan	24.63
South Korea	1,067.36
China	8.27
Indonesia	1,547.80
Malaysia	2.34
Philippines	46.48
Singapore	1.36
Thailand	54.78
Turkey	1.36
South Korea	1,067.36
Hong Kong	7.76
Taiwan	24.63

Developed countries that have ratified the convention have pledged to target aid on the basis of local needs and not donor needs.

The U.N. Environment Program estimates that desertification, which destroys millions of livelihoods each year, costs the global economy around \$42 billion a year. Nine billion dollars of revenue are lost annually in Africa.

Some 70 percent of the 5.2 billion hectares of dryland used for farming are already degraded it says. Land degradation occurs everywhere but is only defined as "desertification" when it occurs in the drylands.

The developed world is also at risk. North America has the highest proportion of affected drylands - 74 percent - while parts of Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Greece and Australia are also exposed.

bles, gas stoves, detergents, clothing, canned food, tomato paste and cumia seeds were among major items exported to the Persian Gulf littoral states, Malaysia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

countries, especially Italy, and the creation of closer relations between the Iranian and Italian businessmen and export companies.

Concurrent with the seminar, an exhibition of Iran's export products will be held for the public.

should be more rationalized.

"The direction of the budget must be such that collection of more taxes will be directed at new sources. The taxing of the existing sources must not be such which would threaten them. The tax laws must be such that they would satisfy both the Finance Ministry and the taxpayer."

"The issuance of partnership bonds must be for the projects which have economic justification. It should not be imagined that one of the ways for meeting deficits is issuing partnership bonds."

times and in all international fora. We never expected Damascus to sell its friendship with Iran to the oil-rich tin pot sheikdoms, specially so soon after President Hashemi Rafsanjani took a great political risk and offered to mediate between Damascus and Ankara even though Turkey was not very receptive to the idea.

President Rafsanjani's offer of mediation was aimed solely at alleviating Syria's national security situation, but Damascus returned the favor by allying itself with Iran's avowed enemies. The Iranian public expects the foreign ministry to explain how long it will continue its one-way friendship with the Syrians.

Political observers are unanimous in the belief that U.S. pressure on Iran is the result only of Tehran's full support for the Arabs in their struggle against the Zionist usurpers.

Iranians want to know what is the point and the justification for the upcoming visit of Syria's Vice-President Abdulhalim Khaddam to Tehran when his country has again stabbed Iran in the back and sold us out by colluding with the Persian Gulf puppet rulers and other regional U.S. lackeys.

We anxiously await the reaction of the Foreign Ministry. And the least we expect from the ministry is to summon the ambassadors of Syria, Qatar and Oman and protest in the strongest terms and issue a warning that more serious diplomatic moves could be on the way if this unfriendly attitude persists.

On eradication of poverty, he said: "Extensive work is being done at the center. Of course in this connection we are not after a propaganda program. We want to seriously include elimination of poverty in the development plans and this is nothing but social justice."

Iranian martyrs, specially those from the Tehran Province, and said all branches of the government must consider it their duty to assist in holding ceremonies for commemorating the martyrs.

communications and cultural areas.

Habibi said working committees have been formed to formulate cooperation in banking, customs, exemption of double-taxation mechanism, surface transportation, establishment of air link between Tehran, Dushanbe and Kish and setting up of power stations in Tajikistan.

Iran's Peace Efforts Hailed
Tajik Parliament Speaker, Sa-farali Rajabov, also met with Dr. Habibi yesterday.

Citing that the region and particularly Tajikistan needs peace and tranquility, Dr. Habibi said: "Taking the special situation of the region into account, the two countries' officials should cooperate with each other in the framework of regional and bilateral interests and around the axis of unity, peace and reconciliation."

Dr. Habibi stressed the Tajik parliament's resolve to promote Irano-Tajik economic, trade and technical ties concurrent with amiable politico-cultural relations and said: "Establishment of Irano-Tajik interparliamentary ties as well as friendship groups are a good support for the two countries' relations."

"The implementation of previous agreements especially the one on the promotion and support of investment as well as other documents signed between the two countries will accelerate the increase in the bilateral transactions."

He added that the private sectors of Iran and Tajikistan should contribute more in the mutual economic activities.

Expressing Tajik Parliament's

satisfaction over the trend of two countries' ties, Rajabov said he was sure that Habibi's visit would bring fruitful results for the deepening of the bilateral economic ties.

Also praising Iran's serious efforts to bring about peace and tranquillity to Tajikistan, he expressed hope for the continuation of these efforts in the Tehran Conference.

Dr. Habibi also visited the institute of hand-written works and the state-run University of Tajikistan last night, and delivered a speech before university professors.

daily, the foreign minister said. "Iran considers the Egyptians part of the world of Islam and adopts unchangeable stances toward them."

Sayed Abdullah Nouri meanwhile elaborated on the two-week-long meeting of the Tajik government and opposition that will start on January 5 in Tehran.

He said the acting deputy of the Tajikistan Islamic Movement Akbar Turajonzoda, Tajik foreign minister, U.N. representative Gerd Metrem, and a representative from Russia will attend the meeting.

The results will be approved by Tajik President Imomoli Rakhmanov and Nouri himself, he clarified.

The Tehran meeting will consider national reconciliation, power distribution in the future government, and parliamentary elections, he pointed out.

Based on agreements reached in the Moscow meeting, the opposition can be involved in the executive and political affairs of the country.

Referring to First Vice President Hassan Habibi's visit to Tajikistan, he expressed hope that such visits would become more frequent, paving the way for development of bilateral economic and political relations.

Asked whether the Tajik opposition would follow Iran's suggestions, he maintained, "Iran is the foremost supporter of the Tajik people and we would need its cultural and economic support."

He voiced hope that the agreements reached would be translated into action.

Nouri categorically denied Tehran-Moscow compromise on opposition forces.

In conclusion, Velayati declared that given its ample cultural and historical commonalities with Tajikistan, Iran is fully prepared to offer economic, political, and cultural assistance to the republic.

news circles talk of a possible attack on Syria, such statements are illogical."

He added that such views show the ignorance of certain Arab countries regarding the real and serious threats to the world of Islam and the Arabs. He continued that the lack of courage among these states in approaching these difficulties realistically had been the cause of the prevailing ignorance in such meetings.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will take every possible step to heighten its defense alertness against any threat to its territorial integrity," Mohammadi said, adding that such activities were not meant to threaten Iran's neighbors.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion Against Netanyahu



JERUSALEM (AFP) - The Israeli Parliament yesterday rejected a no-confidence motion submitted by a far-right party opposed to the nearly completed Hebron accord with the Palestinians.

Only the two authors of the motion, deputies Rehavam Zeevi and Benny Eilon of the opposition Moledet Party, supported the move against the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israel and the Palestinian Authority were trying yesterday in Jerusalem to finalize an agreement on Israeli military redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron, where 400 Jewish settlers live amid 120,000 Palestinians.

Strike Paralyzes Israel

JERUSALEM - Israel was paralyzed yesterday as thousands more workers joined a surprise strike launched the previous day by the Israeli Trade Union Federation to protest government austerity measures.

Likud Prime Minister Ben-

masses under the tyranny of the Shah's reign, the President said: "At that time women could not attain their rights and illiteracy had become a big problem for the nation, whereas half of the university and high school education system are now filled by women."

He said Ilam Province contains enormous deposits of oil, gas, water and other minerals which will revolutionize the region once the development projects are commissioned and completed in the near future.

"Gas will soon be supplied to the cold regions of Ilam including Shirvan Chardaval, and by construction of the giant Sazin Dam and power plant Shirvan Chardaval will receive electricity," said Rafsanjani, adding that the cement factory in that district with a capacity of two thousand tons per annum will change the face of the province in the near future.

He said the tile and concrete production and other related plants in Shirvan Chardaval will boost employment for the youth.

Referring to the water, soil and agricultural projects under way for Shirvan Chardaval, the President said fortification of the agriculture and animal husbandry and construction of three industrial towns in Ilam Province are the main development projects which will commence soon.

Pakistan Worried About Israeli Rapprochement with India

MUSCAT, OMAN - Pakistan is worried about Israel's rapprochement with India, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said after arriving in Oman yesterday.

"The cooperation between these two countries, of course, is a source in Pakistan of some anxiety, because in Pakistan we have taken a strong position regarding the Palestinian cause in our relations," Khan said.

"So this cooperation is not one that we can view with equanimity. It is a cause of deep concern in Pakistan," he told reporters.

Israel Linked to U.S. Missile Alert Network

JERUSALEM - Israel has been linked to a U.S. satellite network which provides real-time warning of the launch of ground-to-ground missiles, the Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported yesterday.

The Israeli air force has been provided with equipment directly linking it to the control center of the satellite alert network in the western U.S. state of Colorado, the newspaper said.

Israel Fears Attacks in Turkey

JERUSALEM - The Israeli secret service is concerned about possible attacks against Israeli interests in Turkey by a radical Palestinian group and Syrian-backed Kurdish separatists, the Haaretz newspaper said yesterday.

The paper said the fears were raised by recent contacts between members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash and the Turkish separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Egypt Rejects Israeli Plan for Peacekeeping in Lebanon

CAIRO, EGYPT - Egypt has rejected an Israeli proposal to send Egyptian peacekeeping troops to South Lebanon if Israel withdraws from the area, Lebanon's parliamentary speaker Nabih Berri said yesterday.

"President (Hosni) Mubarak told me he rejected an Israeli proposal to send an Egyptian-Jordanian force to South Lebanon to maintain peace there in case of an Israeli withdrawal," Berri told the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram.

Israel Offers Jets to India

NEW DELHI, INDIA - Israeli President Ezer Weizman said the pullout of Israeli troops from Hebron was on the right track, but added 400 Jewish settlers among the West Bank city of 120,000 Palestinians needed security guarantees.

Weizman, who arrived in New Delhi Sunday on the first official visit by an Israeli head of state, met with Indian counterpart Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.

India and Israel yesterday signed four agreements to boost cooperation in spheres such as agriculture, industry, science and culture and also decided to forge a partnership in the field of defense.

Weizman said in his talks with Deve Gowda he offered to sell Israel's latest Kfir jet fighters to help India upgrade its air force, the world's fourth largest.

More Than 100 Feared Dead in Indian Train Blast

GUWAHATI, INDIA (AFP) - More than 100 people were feared killed yesterday when a powerful bomb ripped apart a train in the far eastern Indian state of Assam, witnesses said.

The explosion occurred on the Brahmaputra Mail, traveling to New Delhi, near Kokrajhar district in Assam, 216 kilometers (133 miles) from this state capital, a police official said.

A correspondent of a local Assamese daily who visited the site and spoke with police there said: "More than 100 people have died in the explosion. Police have not given the official toll."

"Three compartments in the middle got blown away. There were at least 300 passengers in these compartments when the explosion occurred."

There were some 1,500 people on the train at the time of the explosion, he added. The correspondent said most of the passengers in the compartments torn apart in the blast were from Assam.

"The blast took place at 7:15 p.m. (13:30 GMT), a few minutes after the train left the Kokrajhar station for New Delhi," said Thadou, deputy commissioner of police.

ANALYSIS

Eye on Greater East Asia

"South Korea: An All Rounder"



By: Behzad Shahandeh, Ph.D.

The twenty years of authoritarian regime of Park Chung-hee made South Korea an economic giant with Republic of Korea crossing the threshold of becoming an advanced economy by achieving 100 billion U.S. dollars in exports and 10,000 dollars (U.S.) in per capita income in 1996.

Some have correctly named General Park (assassinated in 1979) as the father of modern prosperous South Korea. He was a no-nonsense politician, who put things in order, got the economy on the right track (the per capita income was 81 U.S. dollars when Park came to power) and elevated discipline and order to the highest priority. The institutions of learning were duly instructed to train the very needed work force mainly in applied sciences. The budget set aside for higher education more than doubled. South Korean students were sent to best schools abroad to become equipped with the necessary techniques to build the nation. The sixties especially were the prime time for development, and South Korea took the advantage to instill a system to set the foundations to become an industrialized nation. She had the benefit of having a leader who could push things through. There were many who criticized Park for his even handed style of rule. He could move with vigor since the civil society was weak and Koreans were receptive and willing to stand the pressure in return for future reward and prosperity. The Confucian beliefs also catered to achieving the goal. Outside pressure was on the direction too with the United States pouring in money and expertise to keep Korea from being threatened with poverty, the main cause of dissatisfaction and conflicts. The above factors all helped but the main motor for moving thing smoothly was the development-oriented regime of General Park Chung-hee. Seoul strived to develop while trying to instill in its people a new sense of courage to take forward strides toward the phase of an industrialized economy.

The government and private industry under a series of five-year development plans launched in the early years of Park's authoritarian regime, focused on an export-led growth policy. South Korean government had to depend on its human labor (to make South Korea a nation of highly-skilled workers) as she lacked natural resources, particularly minerals (found in abundant quantities north of the 38th parallel.) In order to make up for the lack of natural resources, South Korea embarked on a massive drive to educate its work force in high technology. Lots of investments went into that project, but it finally paid-off, with South Korea joining the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996, that is in par with the advanced-industrialized nations of the world (OECD is the rich man's club.)

With economics paying off and the technology-intensive heavy industries leading the nation's economic growth, the educated class brought up during the formative years began to demand political participation. With economic prosperity, political maturity followed, as is invariably the case, when economic reforms take priority over political reforms. Economic reforms need tough no-nonsense governments to put them through (as Park did in South Korea), then a time will come when the people brought up in the economic reforms era demand democratic reforms, which must be granted else further economic reforms will be hard to achieve.

South Korea has reached that stage with putting two ex-presidents on trial for their misdeeds (accountability enforced as a measure of democracy), limiting the presidency to one term (Kim Young Sam's term in office ends in 1997), massive student demonstrations in August 1996 at Yonsei University which is a sign of their active participation. All these developments are in line with making South Korea's progress a resounding success in economic as well as political and social endeavors.

Tigers Kill Three Troopers, Two Civilians in Mine Attack

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - Tamil Tiger guerrillas set off a powerful mine in northern Sri Lanka, killing three soldiers and two civilians, officials here said yesterday.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out the attack in the

Walikamam south sector of the Jaffna Peninsula on Sunday evening, officials said.

They said a small boy and his father were also killed in the attack and another three soldiers and four more civilians were wounded in the claymore mine attack.

Genocide Trial Opens in Kigali

KIGALI, RWANDA (AFP) - Two men suspected of involvement in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, a former local official and a former state prosecutor, went on trial here yesterday.

It was the first such genocide trial to open in the Rwandan capital.

As their trial opened, another one was adjourned in the border town of Kibungu in connection with the bloodbath, in which Hutu extremists and former soldiers are accused of massacring more than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Theodore Ruzibwoba, a former local administration official outside Kigali, faces charges of committing acts of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Earlier yesterday, the prosecutor ruled that Silas Munyagishali, a former state prosecutor, could not be tried in a jurisdiction where he had practiced.

He will be tried instead in the neighboring jurisdiction of Gitanga. The date of the trial was not given.

Jakarta Has No Objection Against Appointment of Second E. Timor Bishop

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (AFP) - Indonesian authorities have no objection to the appointment of a second Roman Catholic bishop for the former Portuguese colony of East Timor and said it was to serve the rising numbers of Catholics there, reports said yesterday.

"That is the authority and the internal matter of the Vatican, and the expansion was taken because the number of Catholics in East Timor is rising," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ghaffar Fadyl told the Antara news agency, adding that Indonesia has "not objection," to the appointment.

Fadyl said that people "should not immediately accuse and speculate that there are any political moves in it."

Pope John Paul II Saturday appointed a new bishop, Basilio do Nascimento, to work alongside Bishop Carlos Ximenes Filipe Belo and take charge of the Baucau Diocese where 200,000 Catholics live.

Algerian Violence Kills at Least 43 over Weekend

ALGIERS, ALGERIA (AFP) - A report that eight villagers were killed in a bomb attack in the town of Zeddine, near Algiers, brought to at least 43 the reported death toll in a weekend of violence in Algeria.

The villagers were killed when the tractor-trailer they were riding in drove over a bomb thrown by an armed group, the Liberte daily reported yesterday.

The attack occurred in the town of Zeddine, near Ain Defla, 150 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of Algiers.

In the same area, 28 people - 34 according to the daily Le Matin - were hacked to death in the towns of Dhamnia and Ellouz overnight Saturday.

Early Sunday, 10 lemon orchard workers were seriously in-

South Korean Unions Ease Strikes for New Year

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - South Korean unions eased their massive strikes yesterday for the New Year holiday, but warned of renewed trouble unless the government repeals a controversial labor law by Friday.

The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) said subway workers in Seoul and Pusan, the home city of President Kim Young-Sam, returned to work "for the sake of public convenience over the New Year holiday."

"But we will intensify our second-stage struggle unless the Kim Young-Sam government nullifies the law by January 3," the federation said in a statement, demanding the president apologize and fire his Cabinet.

Prime Minister Lee Soo-Sung again warned of stern action against strikers, but some 50,000 workers took part in anti-government protests in Seoul and five other cities, calling for indefinite strikes.

In Seoul's financial district, riot police charged into hundreds of students who had followed a protest march by 4,000 strikers. Some 20 students were dragged away, witnesses said.

The students regrouped and joined a sit-down protest by union leaders on the Myongdong Cath-

edral Compound, the traditional hub for pro-democracy demonstrations.

The protesters charged that the new labor law, rammed through Parliament last week, reflects

mands are met," the KCTU statement said.

From Friday, public sector unions, including telecommunications, will join the strikes, which have already crippled major in-



Korean workers striking in Seoul.

Kim's hard-line policy. The law gives management greater scope to fire workers and does not allow more than one union in each industry for another three years.

"We will organize a popular campaign aimed at toppling the Kim government unless our de-

mands including shipyards and car makers.

The strikes, which the government says will cost industry hundreds of millions of dollars in lost production each day, are the most widespread since Kim Young-Sam, a former dissident, came to power in 1993.

U.N. Police Confirm Two Croats Beaten up in Mostar

MOSTAR, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - U.N. police confirmed yesterday that two Bosnian Croats had been beaten up in Muslim-controlled East Mostar over the weekend.

An official at the U.N. police headquarters here told AFP they were part of a group of five people who drove across the former front-line by mistake on the night from Saturday to Sunday.

"Three were able to escape ... and two were beaten up," the official said.

He said that the East Mostar police were informed and took the two men to hospital for treatment. The car in which the men were driving was later found burnt.

The attackers had not been identified and the U.N. police were conducting an investigation, he said.

According to the Bosnian Croat news agency Habema, the two men were robbed, "stripped naked and beaten black and blue." It said they had been badly hurt. The Croatian news agency HINA had reported the incident Sunday.

Danish Premier Announces Cabinet Reshuffle

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK (AFP) - Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen announced a limited government reshuffle yesterday after a small centrist party quit the ruling coalition, official sources said.

Rasmussen was forced to make changes after the Centrist Democrats withdrew their two ministers from the Cabinet.

They were Party Leader Mimi Jakobsen, in charge of commerce and industry, and Yvonne Herloev Andersen at health.

Both had accused Rasmussen of being too close to extreme left parties but pledged their party's continued support of the government in Parliament where the ruling Social Democrats do not hold a majority of seats.

The reshuffle yesterday also included the replacement of four Social Democratic ministers who held the justice, transport, research and culture portfolios.

The Ministry of Health was eliminated and folded into two ministries - the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (renamed Ministry of Food) and the Ministry of Interior.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

the new bishop) also reflects that Indonesia is always open to the efforts of every religious community to organize themselves," Alatas said after meeting Indonesian President Suharto at the residence.

Two of the injured in the incident Sunday are in "very serious" condition in hospital, the paper said.

The same day a bomb at a cafe in the eastern Algiers suburb of El Harrach left between one and three dead and up to 54 injured, press reports said after authorities announced an official toll of 20 injured.

Five bomb and car bomb attacks in Algiers and surrounding areas have left another more than 15 dead and at least 200 injured over the past week in the run-up to Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month beginning in two weeks.



CAIRO, EGYPT: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (R) confers with Saudi Foreign Affairs Minister Saud al-Faisal Dec. 29 to discuss the latest developments in the region.

(AFP Photo)

مكتبة الأمل

Qarabagh Bombed, Heavy Shelling on Front Line

QARABAGH, AFGHANISTAN (AFP) - An anti-Taliban jet dropped four bombs yesterday on this town north of Kabul captured by the Taliban Islamic militia last week as the frontlines came under heavy artillery fire, witnesses said.

A Sukhoi SU-22 bomber dropped two pairs of high-explosive bombs on the western side of the Bazaar, but no casualties were reported as the Bazaar was mostly deserted.

The Taliban militia, which captured Qarabagh in a lightning attack on Friday, have dug-in a few kilometers (miles) north of the town where their frontlines also came under heavy artillery fire.

Several tanks and armored fighting vehicles went forward to reinforce the Taliban lines, and more waited in reserve in Qarabagh Bazaar.

"There was an infantry attack last night against us, but we gave up no ground," said Taliban returning from the front-line.

They said there was a two-hour attack by the coalition forces of ex-government troops under Com-



QARABAGH, AFGHANISTAN: Taliban fighters relax on the front line after their successful push against the coalition rival force of ex-government troops and others at Qarabagh, 45 kms north of Kabul December 29. (AFP Photo)

mander Ahmad Shah Masood, now in alliance with the ethnic Uzbek forces of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam and the minority Shia religious sect under Karim Khalili.

The squad of Taliban fighters

admitted they were ex-Mujahideen from the Hezb-i-Islami faction of former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who along with President Burhanuddin Rabbani, fled Kabul when it fell to the Taliban September 27.

Opposition Keeps up Pressure as Army Units Criticize Milosevic

BELGRADE (AFP) - Opposition parties yesterday kept up pressure on the government after units of the Yugoslav army - a pillar of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's regime - openly criticized him for the first time.

The opposition has been protesting for the past 42 days over the refusal by authorities to recognize the outcome of last month's election results in which the opposition Together Coalition made sweeping gains.

Late Sunday, almost 10,000 students staged a mock battle representing the clashes between Milosevic supporters and opposition protesters at two rival mass rallies on Tuesday.

Predrag Starcevic, a teacher, died after being swept up in the violence on Tuesday, and the opposition Sunday blamed police for his death. More than 90 people were injured in those clashes.

Scoffing at hundreds of riot police trying to prevent them marching, the students formed a number of columns which set off in all directions, forcing the riot

police to run to seal off the area.

After brief negotiations with the police, the students were authorized to march around an area known as Students' Park.

They then staged a mock battle, splitting into two groups with "government supporters" shouting "We love you Slobodan" (Milosevic) and the "opposition" shouting "Gang of reds," a reference to the ruling Serbian Socialist Party.

Several members of the riot police seemed amused by their antics, and the demonstration ended around 8:30 p.m. (19:30 GMT) without incident.

In their first expression of support for the opposition, several army units said Sunday they would not turn their guns on the Serbian people.

"If we have to, we will put ourselves at the head of the Serbian people to make the truth triumph," they said in a statement, released through an opposition party and aired on a private television station in Serbia's second largest city of Nis.

In a message to Milosevic, they urged him to "get a grip on himself and show some wisdom and dignity ... stop your flunkies from lying to you. Put yourself on the side of the people."

"We will not allow Serbia to be ruined. We will never be against our own people. Our planes, our tanks, our cannons and Howitzers will be turned only on the enemy," they said.

The government did not react yesterday to the statement which was interpreted by the private VIP news agency as a "threat to Milosevic of a coup d'etat."

The World at a Glance



SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA - South Korean troops will conduct massive drills on January 1 in Seoul, using helicopters to simulate North Korean commando attacks, military officials said yesterday.

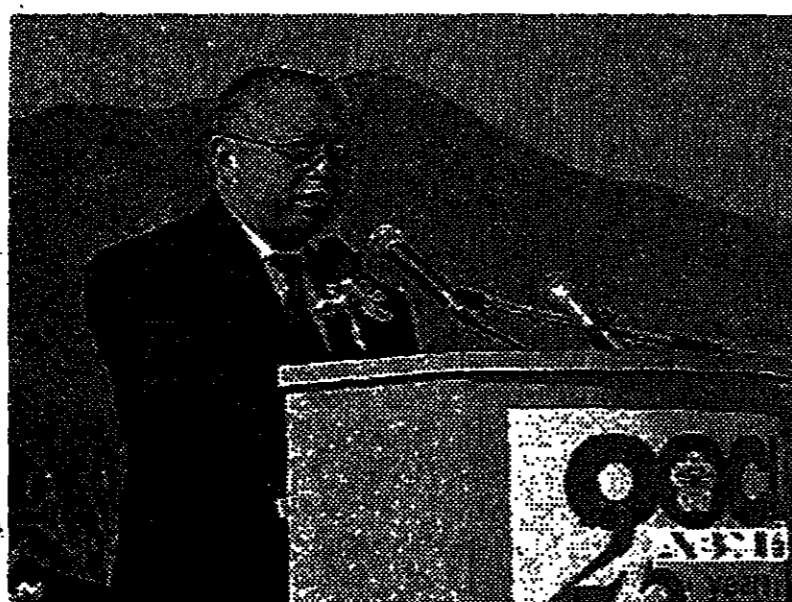
BERNE SWITZERLAND - The Swiss Press denounced yesterday the phone tapping of one of its newspapers, the Sonntagsblick, after it published a confidential government report on social insurance financing.

CAIRO, EGYPT - Sudan has protested at former Prime Minister Sadek al-Mahdi's visit to Egypt, saying Cairo's welcome for the exiled opposition leader did not show "good intentions" toward Khartoum.

LAGOS, NIGERIA - At least five people were killed in fighting between two village communities in Nigeria's southeast state of Akwa Ibom, the Punch newspaper reported yesterday.

(DISPATCHES)

Hong Kong's Graft Buster Declines Tung's Offer to Stay on



HONG KONG (AFP) - The head of Hong Kong's anti-graft body has refused an offer by the territory's government chief designate Tung Chee-hwa to remain in his job after the handover, Tung said yesterday.

Tung said Michael Leung, Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), had made up his mind not to stay on for "personal and family reasons."

"I was hoping he might want to change his mind about staying as he explained for personal and family reasons he really cannot stay on

any further," Tung told reporters after a meeting with Leung, 58, who will be quitting his job in March.

Leung's announcement that he was resigning from the post was made a day after the handover leader's first formal meeting with Governor Chris Patten, stirring speculation that he had been dumped by Tung.

Tung was selected on December 11 to become Hong Kong's first chief executive, replacing Patten, after the handover of the territory on July 1.

North Korea Lambasts South as Submarine Dead Repatriated

PANMUNJOM, KOREA (AFP) - The remains of 24 North Koreans killed after their submarine intruded into the South were returned across the demilitarized zone here yesterday, a day after the North apologized for the incursion.

But immediately after the solemn handover ceremony, the Korean People's Army (KPA) in the North held a heroes' welcome for the dead crew and blasted Seoul for committing "atrocities."

The 24 small, white-draped boxes of ashes were solemnly escorted across the median line of the DMZ by a United Nations Command Honor Guard.

Then, in a 15-minute ceremony on its side of the line, a KPA honor guard armed with Kalashnikov rifles with fixed bayonets set the boxes in red-flag draped "martyrs' coffins," and called the repatriation a victory for the North.

No mention was made of the apology.

"This is a great victory of great Leader Kim Jong-il, the military and the people," a North Korean officer shouted over a loud speaker as a North Korean military band played a funeral dirge.

The officer also repeated the North's version that the submarine, which the South says was on a spy mission, had run aground on September 18 while on a training mission.

"If South Koreans had even a minimum of conscience they would have provided assistance to our soldiers. But instead they mobilized 100,000 troops and annihilated them in an atrocious fashion," he said.

Talks Held with Religious Leaders in Indonesian Riot Town

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (AFP) - Indonesian officials yesterday held talks with religious leaders in a bid to ease tensions in a West Java town where riots last week left at least four people dead.

"The meeting was in the framework of consolidation, so that stability and security can be safeguarded in West Java," Tasikmalaya district spokesman Asep Rashid told AFP on the telephone.

He said the five hour meeting was attended by Muslim and Christian religious leaders from all over West Java. Religious Affairs Minister Tarmizi Taher and provincial and local police and military chiefs.

A Muslim mob went on the rampage in Tasikmalaya last Thursday, picking out mainly Christian targets, and destroying or severely damaging more than 100 buildings, including churches.

Hostage Crisis Puts Japan's PM in Dilemma Over ASEAN Tour



HASHIMOTO

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - A tour of Southeast Asian nations by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan is increasingly at risk from the Peru hostages crisis.

"I will think it over tonight," he commented about the planned nine-day trip due to begin on January 7. He said his advisors were "divided half and half."

The premier, scheduled to visit Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore, added that most fellow politicians had recommended he go, despite the 13-day-

old standoff at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima where Marxist rebels are holding 83 hostages.

But Hashimoto said bureaucrats were opposed to his absence. "They ask what can be done if something happens while I am away," he told reporters at his official residence.

Hashimoto, who was reelected as premier in November, has been on tours of Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) members twice since he first took

office last January.

He attended the Asia-Europe summit in Bangkok in February and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in the Philippines in November.

The hostage standoff also forced Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda to call off a visit to South Korea this month.

But some skeptical commentators have questioned what Hashimoto could do anyway if he chose to stay.

Russian Auxiliary Units to Quit Chechnya by Sunday

MOSCOW, RUSSIA (AFP) - The last remaining auxiliary units of the Russian army in Chechnya, left behind after combat troops left, will pull out of the Caucasus republic within a week, Russian military officials said yesterday.

The army command in Chechnya had earlier promised that all Russian troops would have left by January 22 - combat troops left Sunday - but, according to yesterday's announcement the final units will quit the territory by Sunday.

At present, the Russian Defense Ministry retains a motorized bat-

alion of around 400 troops, plus a number of units of the 58th army from the northern Caucasus.

The Interior Ministry still has several units of the 101st brigade, its commander General Pavel Maslov said, but he did not stipulate how many men that involved.

Presidential elections in Chechnya are scheduled for January 27. They are expected to return one of the senior separatist figures from the 21-month war of independence against Moscow as head of state.

The separatist war ended in August with a cease-fire and peace accord.



KHANKALA, CHECHNYA: The Russian 205th motorized brigade prepares Dec. 20 to withdraw from Khankala under a peace deal between Moscow and separatist leaders. (AFP Photo)

Saglain Spins Pakistan to Victory in One-Dayer
NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - Saglain Mushtaq claimed five wickets to spin Pakistan to a 25-run victory over a Hunter Invitation XI in a rain-shortened one-day cricket match here Monday. Saglain captured 5-28 and young pacesman Mohammad Zahir 3-25 as Pakistan dismissed the invitation side for 161 in reply to their 186 for nine in a match reduced to 32 overs a side after morning rain. The Pakistan innings was highlighted by a spectacular 117-run partnership in just 61 minutes for the fourth wicket between Zahoor Elahi (69) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (55) to build the match-winning total.

Sports Highlights

Rosset Inspires Swiss to Win

PERTH, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - Switzerland's Marc Rosset on Monday made the Burswood Dome, scene of one of his blackest moments, into the venue for one of his greatest triumphs.

The giant right-hander made light of a painful back injury as he partnered teenager Martina Hingis to victory over Romania on the second day of the Hopman Cup mixed team tournament.

Switzerland took the tie 2-1, with Rosset and Hingis clinching the crucial mixed doubles against Adrian Panaitescu and Irina Spilaea 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 after Hingis captured the women's singles, beating Spirlea 7-5, 6-2.

Rosset decided, because of injury, not to take part in the men's singles, which he forfeited to Panaitescu, so he could focus all his efforts on the doubles.

The strategy worked magnificently, exactly a year after Rosset achieved notoriety at last year's Hopman Cup final.

He and Hingis were poised to win against Croatia when a Rosset tantrum brought about a sensational end to the competition.

Angered by a line call when the Swiss looked almost certain to win, he thumped a hand into wooden advertising board, damaging the hand so badly he could not continue.

He wrung the hand in agony, while a disbelieving Hingis wept.

The disappointment of that day was forgotten as Hingis beamed her brightest neon smile after the Swiss had worn down their gallant opponents.

Swiss hopes took a dive in the opening set of the doubles, as Rosset, in obvious discomfort, was far from his best.

After Hingis had dropped service in the fourth game, Rosset squandered service in the sixth, allowing the Romanians to lead 5-1.

Although Spirlea dropped service in the seventh, Romania had plenty in hand to take the set.

With Rosset more relaxed in the second set, and with Spirlea dropping service twice more, Switzerland fought back to level at one set each.

Rosset found superb form in the deciding set, carrying all before him despite Hingis's dropping service in the third and seventh games.

Iowa Blanks Texas Tech in Alamo Bowl

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (Reuters) - Sedic Shaw ran for 113 yards and a touchdown and upstaged Byron Hanspard as Iowa blanked Texas Tech 27-0 in the Alamo Bowl Sunday.

Iowa (9-3) won its second straight Bowl Game and finished with three straight wins, completing its best season since going 10-1-1 in 1991.

Hanspard, the Doak Walker Award winner, came in averaging 189.45 yards per game, but was kept in check by a Hawkeye defense that shut out two of its last three opponents. He got 64 yards on 18 carries. Hanspard, a junior, is expected to announce Monday whether he will make himself eligible for the NFL draft.

Texas Tech (7-5) was shut out for the first time since losing to Arkansas 31-0 in 1987. The Red Raiders have lost three of their last four Bowl Games and were meeting Iowa for the first time.

A Fox Guarding the Henhouse

By Lewis Franck

Since before Richard Petty donned his trademark hat, NASCAR racers have been considered the cowboys of the racing world. And just as those rowdy cowpunchers who came to town after a cattle drive needed a sheriff to keep them in line, Winston Cup teams need to mind the orders of Gary Nelson.

Nelson may look more like an Ivy League professor than he does Clint Eastwood or Gary Cooper, but he's the sheriff of NASCAR country — and who better to ride herd on the boys than a former cowboy himself? Nelson used to be one of the best crew chiefs on the circuit, and one of its most wily.

Any racing series with "stock car" as its middle name operates under the philosophy that the cars shouldn't be the stars. Thus NASCAR has instituted various rules to keep the cars equal. The crew chiefs, on the other hand, simply want to win. In their zeal to build the fastest, most powerful machines, they often interpret the rules generously in order to find the speed or gas mileage necessary to put their driver in the winner's circle.

It's a constant battle between the sanctioning body and the competitor to see who gets ahead. Nelson's job is to make sure everyone is following the rules — a responsibility that pits him against his former colleagues in the garages and pits.



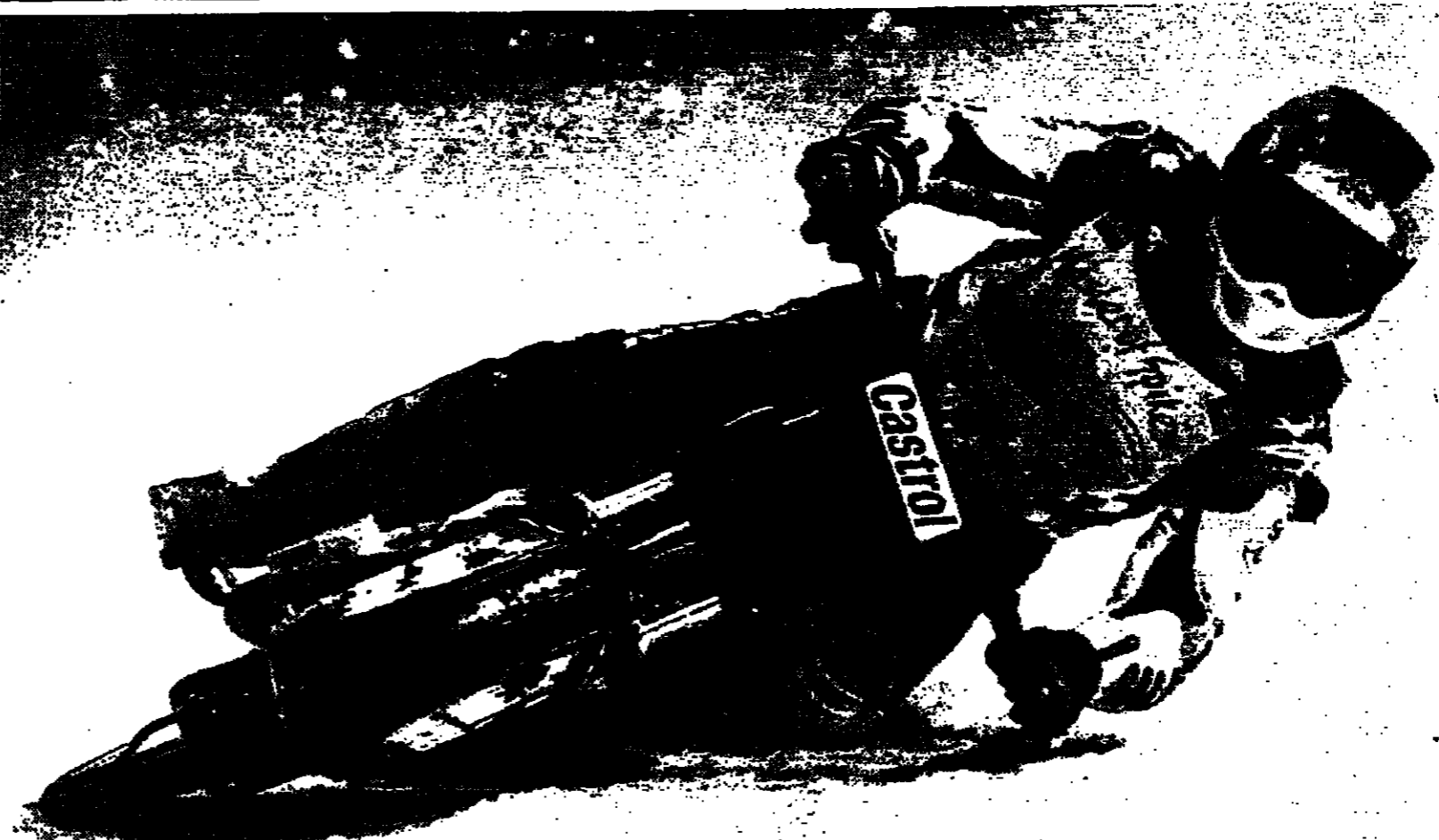
GARY NELSON

IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

Clark Moves in at City as Neal Resigns
LONDON (AFP) - Frank Clark took over as Manchester City manager on Sunday evening ten days after quitting at Nottingham Forest after Phil Neal resigned as caretaker boss at the Maine Road club. City secretary David Halford confirmed Clark's appointment and said he would meet city players and backroom staff Monday prior to holding an afternoon press conference at Maine Road. City issued a statement through Halford saying that: "Manchester City Football Club are very pleased to announce the appointment of Frank Clark as its manager with effect from 29th December 1996."

VOL. III. No. 641 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Tuesday December 31, 1996, Day 11, 1375, Sha'ban 20, 1417



BERLIN, GERMANY: Russian Ice Speedway World Champion Alexander Balachov slips out of a curve of the ice arena in Berlin's Hohenschonhausen District. Dec. 29. Balachov caused a minor accident during the "Masters of Spikes" at International Ice Speedway race and lost important points for his participation in the A-final of the tournament, as he was banned from the race. (AFP Photo)

49ers Ground Eagles, Steelers Rout Indianapolis

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA (AFP) - The San Francisco 49ers clipped the Philadelphia Eagles' wings Sunday with a 14-0 victory in the National Football League Playoffs.

Steve Young ran for one touchdown then shrugged off a rib injury to throw for another as the 49ers handed Philadelphia their first post-season shut-out in a National Conference wildcard game.

The 49ers, playing in the wildcard round for the first time since 1985, took advantage of an Eagles' team that self-destructed every time it was in scoring position. San Francisco won a trip to Green Bay to battle the Packers in next weekend's Divisional Playoffs.

Young was the 49ers' leading rusher with 67 yards on 12 carries. He scored on a nine-yard quarterback draw early in the second quarter, but suffered bruised ribs as he bounced off two Philadelphia defenders into the end zone.

Young left briefly late in the second quarter, but returned before the half ended as San Francisco took a 7-0 lead at halftime.

Early in the third quarter, Young threw a 36-yard pass to Jerry Rice, who made a spectacular one-handed catch and raced to the Eagles three-yard line. On the next play, Young and Rice hooked up again for a touchdown to make it 14-0.

The Niners' defense took over, knocking quarterback Ty Detmer out of the game with an apparent right hamstring injury and giving backup Mark Rypien no chance to engineer a comeback.

The Pittsburgh Steelers moved a step closer to a second straight Super Bowl chance on Sunday with a 42-14 rout of Indianapolis in the National Football League

playoffs.

Jerome Bettis ran for 102 yards, including a pair of one-yard scores in a rematch of last season's American Conference Championship game.

The Steelers, runners-up to Dallas in last season's Super Bowl, will visit the New England Patriots in next weekend's Divisional Playoffs.

Pittsburgh's 42 points, which included 29 in the second half, set a new team playoff record. The Steelers' 40-14 win over the Baltimore Colts on December 19, 1976 was their best previous output, a mark Pittsburgh matched last season with a 40-21 victory over Buffalo.

BT Global Challenge Leader Sails Into Wellington

WELLINGTON (Reuters) - The leading yacht in the BT Global Challenge race sailed into Wellington Harbor on Monday to be greeted by a cannon, bagpipes and hundreds of spectators.

Group 4 was the first of the 14 yachts to reach its destination in the second leg of the epic race, after 40 days' sailing from Rio de Janeiro.

Organizers said celebrations would proceed over the next five days despite an overnight tragedy in Wellington harbor, where four people died and one was missing after a fishing boat and a container ship collided.

More than 500 onlookers greeted the yacht, which made agonizingly slow progress in the final stages because of abnormally calm conditions, in contrast to the weather further north where the tail end of former tropical cyclone Fergus was lashing north-eastern coasts.

Indianapolis were thoroughly outplayed in the first half, but managed a 14-13 lead at the break.

Bettis' first scoring plunge and Kordell Stewart's subsequent two-point conversion pass to rookie tight end John Farquhar with 5:30 to go in the third quarter gave Pittsburgh the lead for good, 21-14. The drive was a 16-play, 91-yard march that devoured the first nine and a half minutes of the second half.

Pittsburgh held the ball 15 minutes more than Indianapolis, who could not handle the Steelers' blitz schemes. Jim Harbaugh was under pressure throughout. He was sacked four times, three by line-

backer Chad Brown, as the Colts were limited to 146 total yards, just 22 in the second half.

Divisional Playoffs:

Saturday, January 4

NFC: San Francisco (13-4) at Green Bay (13-3)

AFC: Jacksonville (10-7) at Denver (13-3)

Sunday, January 5

AFC: Pittsburgh (11-6) at New England (11-5)

NFC: Dallas (11-6) at Carolina (12-4)

Conference Championships

Sunday, January 12

Super Bowl 31 (at New Orleans)

Sunday, January 26

sudden we came round the corner and that was it, it (the wind) died. "Winfield told a group of journalists.

"Fifteen hours later we're still sitting there going 'oh, no' and I was getting grief about it," he said.



مكة في الأصل

IRAN
BUSINESS NEWS

Romania Doubles Fuel Prices

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Romania's government said on Sunday it would double fuel prices in the new year to help cover losses caused by the depreciating leu currency and to meet International Monetary Fund recommendations for the economy.

An official statement said that from Wednesday petrol would rise to 1,900 lei (46 cents) per liter of premium, up from 990, and 1,300 lei (31 cents) per liter of diesel, up from 680.

The increases were in line with suggestions made by the IMF, which suspended a \$460 million accord on the grounds that Romania's former leftist government had failed to meet targets agreed with the fund. The leftists lost power in a general election last month.

Bringing fuel prices gradually up to world levels was part of the package agreed with the IMF for this year.

Romania annually produces around 6.7 million tons of crude oil but needs to import about dou-

ble that amount - a huge financial burden for the cash-strapped ex-Communist country - to meet demand and keep its big refining sector running.

The leu has fallen steadily in value over the past year. Its reference rate was 3,030 to the dollar in July, when energy prices were last increased. It now stands at 4,035 to the dollar after being 2,580 in January.

An IMF mission is expected to arrive in Bucharest next month to discuss a new loan accord with the reformist government headed by Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea.

The government statement said the increase of fuel prices was expected to solve many problems of Romania's economy and to "offer a favorable basis for future talks with the IMF".

July's fuel price increase triggered a blip in inflation.

The government would take steps to compensate the population for the new energy prices, the official statement said.

Akayev Reports 5 Percent Increase in Industrial Output

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN (AP) - Kyrgyzstan registered a 5-percent increase in its industrial output this year, its first after four years of industrial production decline, a news agency said Sunday.

But President Askar Akayev, who reported the figure, also said negative economic trends including high inflation were continuing, Interfax said.

Speaking Saturday in the capital Bishkek, he said the government has a target figure of 15-percent annual inflation for 1997 and wants to stabilize the Kyrgyz som at its present exchange rate of 15 to 17 to one U.S. dollar.

Akayev voiced hope the economic situation will improve due



AKAYEV

to the "new, dynamic sectors of the national economy" such as gold mining.

World Bank Approves \$150m Loan for Xinjiang Project

BEIJING (AFP) - The World Bank has approved a \$150 million loan for the second phase of a controversial agricultural project in the northwest region of Xinjiang, Xinhua reported Sunday.

The Tarim Basin II project, which is designed to lift local people out of poverty and ensure better environmental protection, will start next summer, the state news agency quoted Shi Yuebo, an official at Xinjiang's financial department, as saying.

The World Bank launched an inquiry into the first phase of the project late last year after human rights activist Harry Wu charged that tens of thousands of prison laborers were working on an irrigation scheme which made up most of the project.

After a six-week probe, the bank said it had found no evidence to back up Wu's claims, adding that activities of prison camps in the region were separate from the Tarim Basin project.

But Wu has refused to drop his claims, and in August he lobbied the U.S. and German governments to query World Bank on support for the Xinjiang production and construction corps, which implements the loans.

Xinhua quoted Richard Reidinger, a World Bank project manager who recently led an inspection tour to the Tarim Basin, as saying the prospects for the second phase were "bright and optimistic."

While the first phase - started in 1992 and completed with a \$125 million World Bank loan - focused on irrigation and drainage facilities in the south of the basin, the second phase will concentrate on the north.

It will also use \$20.95 million in donations from two unnamed overseas funds, Xinhua reported.

China is the single largest recipient of World Bank loans, with commitments currently exceeding \$20 billion and Beijing receiving an additional three billion dollars a year.

SPD Could Block German Entry into EMU

BONN (AFP) - The Social Democratic Party (SPD) could block Germany's entry into a single European currency union if the conditions are not right, according to the SPD Lower Saxony Premier Gerhard Schroeder.

The SPD would use its majority in the Bundestag, the upper house of parliament, to prevent the move, he said in an interview appearing Monday in the magazine Focus.

Schroeder, who hopes to succeed Helmut Kohl as German Chancellor in 1998, sees "no reason for the SPD to commit itself the euro right now, whatever the conditions might be," he told the magazine.

Russia Still Has Rocky Road to Economic Growth

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The road to Russian economic recovery has been paved with bold forecasts and good intentions, but the long-awaited turnaround remains just out of sight after five years of market-oriented economic reforms.

Inflation is at record lows, the International Monetary Fund has resumed lending after two gaps in the second half of the year and the ruble has held firmly within a gently sloping downward corridor against the dollar.

But millions of Russians survive on less than \$100 a month - if they get paid at all - and tax evasion is rampant. Miners struck this month because they had not received wages and the government stopped spending money because coffers were bare.

Gross domestic product, a broad measure of the size of economic output, is stubbornly below 1995 levels, despite many official predictions that the economy is poised for growth.

"Reforms are not going easily, they are hard and difficult, it is difficult today for everyone in Russia," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told workers as the first Russian-assembled western car rolled off the production line in the autonomous region of Tatarstan this month.

"But we are already moving beyond this difficulty to a new order... 1997 will be a different year for us, a breakthrough. A breakthrough in that we will no longer prepare, but will strengthen the economy."

Chernomyrdin, a gas industry manager turned politician, has taken much of the credit for tough monetary policies designed to drive Russian inflation down.

Consumer prices are expected to rise about 22 percent this year, after a rise of 130 percent in the year to December 1995 and rates of around 2,000 percent in the first year of reforms.

But there have been few moves to restructure the inefficient companies inherited from Soviet days



CHERNOMYRDIN

and many company managers are nostalgic for handouts they received then.

Investment is low, partly because companies cannot afford to borrow at Russia's still high interest rates and partly because foreign firms are frightened away by frequently changing legislation and fear of political unrest.

The Communists are the biggest party in the lower house of parliament and President Boris Yeltsin needed all his strength - and a generous injection of budget funds - to fight off a Communist challenger in July's presidential election.

Many economists say the high pre-election spending was at the root of the problems with the IMF in the second half of the year. Expensive promises made during the campaign were quietly forgotten as Yeltsin disappeared into a series of government rest homes to prepare for an operation on his heart.

But the Communists appear to have lost their taste for a battle and parliament approved the first two readings of a tight 1997 budget this month, giving Yeltsin a welcome fillip in time for his return to the Kremlin.

The president, who had his third heart attack between the two rounds of the presidential election, had a quintuple bypass op-

eration on November 5 and has spent most of the last six months in hospital or in rest homes.

In his first television address since his operation, Yeltsin said tax collection and non-payments would be among his priorities after he returned.

"Many problems have accumulated which need the president's intervention," he said.

"A state that cannot pay its workers for labor they have performed - this simply cannot be allowed... I would like to remind managers of enterprises - if you are unable to pay (taxes) that means you are unfit for the job."

"And if you are unfit, you have to go."

Yeltsin also hinted at changes to his government, accusing some officials of easing up while he was away.

"The only criteria here is the quality of life of the people," he said. "We will part with those who are unable to turn towards the people. We need new impulses, we need more courage and energy."

Yeltsin did not say which ministers might go, but the Russian media have blamed Finance Minister Alexander Livshits for the tax and wage fiascoes and the Communists have made no secret of their hatred for presidential chief-of-staff Anatoly Chubais.

Unceremoniously in January after the Communists' strong showing in 1995 parliamentary elections, accusing him of destroying the value of peoples' savings and of selling industry for a song.

But he brought the ginger-haired economist back to the Kremlin after the July presidential poll, before which Chubais had played a major role in raising funds.

Opponents say Chubais has acted as regent while Yeltsin was ill. The chief-of-staff, also a member of an emergency commission designed to force companies to pay their tax debts, has kept a relatively low profile.

Qadhafi Orders Shake-Up of Libya's Economic System

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libyan leader Moamer Qadhafi called Sunday for a shake-up in the country's strictly-controlled economy, including a flexible rate of exchange for the overvalued dinar, freer trade and some privatization.

He also urged a continued crackdown on corruption and improvements in the military in a wide-ranging televised speech to members of the grassroots people's committees ahead of the resumption of their sessions Monday.

"The official rate of exchange of the dinar should change according to the evaluation of the central bank, which may decide not to keep it at \$3.2, when on the black market one dollar is worth three dinars," Qadhafi said.

International sanctions imposed against Libya since 1992 for its alleged support of terrorism have eroded the purchasing power of ordinary Libyans and the value of the dinar against other currencies.

But Qadhafi said that since 1995 Libya had succeeded in amassing \$4 billion which would be "invested in profitable sectors." He recalled the policy of distribut-

ing oil dividends to the people, whereby 100,000 families so far had each received \$5,000.

He backed the award of contracts to private companies for erecting and maintaining public buildings, as well as managing services like water distribution and sewerage.

Attacking corruption and inflation, Qadhafi called on the grassroots committees, due to begin sessions Monday, to define those who would be authorized to import consumer goods and obtained the necessary currency from the central bank.

"Only cooperatives and retail traders may sell imported goods, with a limited margin of profit," Qadhafi said, adding that measures must be taken to prevent imported subsidized goods being sold on the black market.

Retail traders would be restricted to the sale of tobacco, dairy products and clothing, Qadhafi said. "Everything sold outside authorized stores should be seized and their possessors tried and imprisoned," he added.

But he suggested liberalizing the laws on importing tobacco to prevent smuggling and create



revenue for the state.

"Purification committees" tasked with fighting corruption "should continue their mission, despite their mistakes and excesses," Qadhafi said, citing examples of public officials who had accumulated colossal fortunes and tax frauds amounting to millions of dinars.

The Libyan leader supported an idea to raise the length of military service to two years, while giving recruits higher pay and greater social benefits, in order to increase the strength of the army and security services.

Economic Digest

AMMAN - Energy Minister Hashem Dabbas and Finance Minister Marwan Awad left for Iraq Sunday to discuss Iraqi oil supplies to the kingdom for 1997.

The ministers will meet senior Iraqi officials to discuss renewing an annual agreement under which the kingdom receives its daily requirement of 75,000 barrels of crude and fuel oil from Iraq, according to an official speaking on condition of anonymity.

The supplies are exempt from United Nations sanctions imposed on Baghdad following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Amman considers the oil as settlement of Baghdad's \$1.2 billion debt, incurred during its 1980-88 war with Iran. Jordan pays a discounted price for part of the supply.

Trade Minister Ali Abu-Ragheb will visit Iraq Jan. 6 to renew a \$220 million annual trade protocol.

RIYADH - Foreign workers in Saudi Arabia transferred over 580 billion riyals (\$154.6 billion) out of the country during the past 17 years, bank figures showed Sunday.

Remittances jumped from 13.6 billion riyals (\$3.6 billion) in 1980 to 59 billion riyals (\$15.7 billion) in 1996.

The largest amount pumped out of the country in one year was in 1995 when 62.2 billion riyals (\$16.5 billion) were transferred overseas, the figures showed.

There are more than 3 million foreign workers in Saudi Arabia, nearly half of them are Pakistanis and Egyptians.

CAIRO - Egypt and Saudi Arabia agreed on investments worth more than \$1 billion during a visit by Egyptian ministers to the oil-rich Persian Gulf state.

Public Sector Minister Atef Obeid, who headed the delegation, told a news conference that the biggest agreement involves setting up a joint holding company with a capital of \$500 million to invest in tourism, construction and factories in Egypt.

Obeid said two other joint companies were agreed upon to produce steel and glass. Each will have an initial capital of \$250 million.

Obeid, whose comments were carried by Egypt's Middle East news agency, also said two companies, each capitalized at \$5 million, would be set up to provide information and real estate services for investors.

KUWAIT - The price index of the Kuwait Stock Exchange closed at 1,908.4 points the end of the trading week, up 20.5 points or 1.08 percent from the week before.

Volume of traded shares rose to 451.18 million from 264.48 million last week. The value of shares was around 128.41 million dinars (\$428.03 million), compared with 77.48 million dinars (\$258.26 million) last week.

The exchange lists 59 firms. Only Kuwaitis and citizens of other Arab Persian Gulf states - Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman - can directly trade in this official market.

MANAMA - Bahrain on Sunday reported a nine percent increase in the assets of its offshore banks and a slight decline in those of commercial units operating on the tiny Persian Gulf island.

IRAN NEWS

Today in History

1494 - Forces of France's King Charles VIII enter Rome.
 1810 - Russia's Tsar Alexander introduces new tariffs aimed at French goods.
 1851 - Austrian Constitution is abolished.
 1879 - U.S. inventor Thomas A. Edison gives first demonstration of his electric incandescent light at Menlo Park, New Jersey.
 1919 - Britain, Japan and United States sign agreement on east Siberia.
 1946 - End of World War II is proclaimed officially by U.S. President Harry S. Truman.
 1956 - President Sukarno proclaims state of siege in Sumatra, Indonesia.
 1961 - Lebanon's army prevents coup attempt in Beirut by Syrian popular party.
 1963 - Central African Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland is dissolved.
 1964 - Indonesia's President Sukarno threatens to quit United Nations if Malaysia is given seat on Security Council.
 1966 - United States says it will halt bombing of North Vietnam when Hanoi assures that it will discuss peace terms seriously.
 1968 - UN Security Council censures Israel unanimously for commando raid on Beirut airport.
 1973 - Fidel Castro tells troops that Cuba still faces danger of military aggression from United States.
 1987 - Violent protests erupt in occupied West Bank as Palestinians prepare to observe January 1 anniversary of PLO's main guerrilla group.
 1988 - India and Pakistan agree not to attack each others' nuclear facilities.

Take Walking Routine Indoors

By Dr. Allan Bruckheim

QUESTION: The only exercise I can still participate in is walking. It is easy to do every day during the good weather months, but now it has turned cold and wintry. I can't afford a gym, and I wonder if there are other exercises I can do to take the place of my wonderful walks.

ANSWER: Even though you may live in an area where the winters are so severe that an outdoor activity is made difficult, there are still days when a brisk walk is beneficial and invigorating.

It is merely a matter of dressing properly - cotton underclothing to absorb perspiration, another layer for warmth and an outer waterproof and windproof layer as protection against strong winds and moisture. The proper choice of shoes is also important; they must offer support plus a proper

tread for traction when snow or ice is on the ground.

There are days, however, when any sane person must stay inside, and then you need a choice of exercises to supplement the walking plan you enjoy so much. One good possibility is an exercise cycle or other machine in your home.

The lack of changing scenery can be overcome by either playing a rousing audiotape (my personal preferences are Sousa marches recorded by the Boston Pop Orchestra) or even a video to hold your interest while you pump away.

Changing the music or video will help overcome the boredom that can come with indoor exercise.

Another fine possibility is to purchase one of the many aerobic tapes that fill the shelves of book

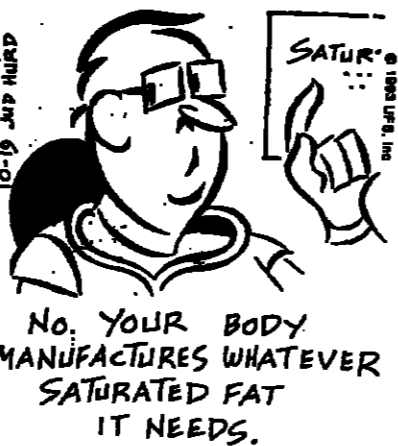
and video stores. Choose one that fits your physical condition and lifestyle - a low-impact program can fulfill the needs of most people.

You might wish to explore the possibilities offered by a local health club or "Y." Many provide regularly scheduled exercise sessions at prices you can afford, aerobic classes of many types, as well as the opportunity to exercise at your own pace and follow your own program. Many are equipped with pools, which can furnish you with still another exciting exercise possibility, swimming. Of course, when all else fails, there is still walking indoors at the local mall.

I bet you meet many other people there doing just what you do, taking a good walk for health.

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DENNIS THE MENACE By HANK KETCHAM

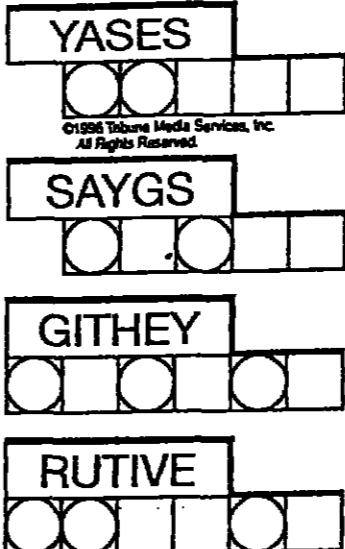


"MY MOM SAYS TV IS A BOOK FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T READ."

CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OUTDO IMBUE ASTHMA FIGURE
 Answer: What his wife thought of the new outfit - IT SUITED HIM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

TRUE!

by Daryl Cagle



A survey of dentists found that 81 percent of their patients who have bad breath are men.

HEATHCLIFF



"YOUR BOOKIE IS HERE."



کتابخانه

IRAN NEWS

U.S. Minorities Face Growing Gap in Student Achievement

WASHINGTON (AFP) - U.S. minority students who were once narrowing the student achievement gap with their White counterparts are again falling behind, according to a report earlier.

The New York Times, citing a study by the non-profit national research group Education Trust, reported that the gap in overall test results between White and Black students declined by about 50 percent in the 1970s and 1980s.

The gap between Whites and Hispanics fell by about one third, the report said.

"Between 1970 and 1990 we made quite extraordinary progress in narrowing the gap between White and minority kids, but the gap by all indications is widening again," said Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust.

Figures varied for different grades and subjects. On science tests, black 17-year-olds scored 54 points below Whites in 1969 on a scale of 500 points. In 1986 the figure was 45 points and in 1994 49 points. The maths gap was 40 points in 1973, 21 points in 1990 and 27 points in 1994.

Hispanics in that age group scored 44 points lower than Whites in science in 1982, 34 points lower in 1992 and 45 points lower in 1994. In reading, they scored 41 points below Whites in 1975, 22 points below in 1990 and 33 points below in 1994.

The Education Trust report said financial resources, teachers' pay and teachers' training reflected a continuing difference in access between Whites and minorities.

U.S. Drug Agency Approves Anti-Epileptic Drug

RARITAN, NEW JERSEY (AFP) - The Food and Drug Administration has approved the sale of a new anti-epileptic drug that reduces the frequency of seizures, the company that will distribute the drug announced recently.

Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, part of the Johnson and Johnson group, said the new drug - dubbed "Topamax" - reduces the frequency of epileptic seizures, particularly in patients not taking other anti-epileptic drugs. Topamax is recommended as adjunctive therapy for adult patients suffering from partial onset seizures, the most common kind of seizure, the company said.

Clinical trials of Topamax on more than 2,000 epilepsy patients,

initially suffering from an average of 11 seizures per month, showed the drug reduced the number of seizures by up to 75 percent.

And a small number of patients became seizure-free, the company said.

Epilepsy is a chronic condition, in which the central nervous system's disturbed electrical rhythms can affect the patient's consciousness or movements, according to Ortho-McNeil.

"Topamax enhances a chemical substance that inhibits electrical activity in the brain, while blocking other substances that increase activity," said Marc Kamin, the company's director of clinical investigations and clinical affairs.

Italy to Shut Psychiatric Hospitals for More Flexible Centers

ROME (AFP) - Italy is to close all psychiatric hospitals before the end of 1997 and replace them with more flexible centers under a government plan revealed earlier.

Initially the government had set a deadline of December 31, 1996 to shut down these centers, which include 57 public and 12 private institutes, an official said. Only 21 of them will be able to meet the deadline.

The Public Health Ministry's decision to close down the centers follows press reports about patients being chained up and lingering questions over suspicious deaths.

The centers serve more than 17,000 patients with serious psychiatric problems.

Under the plan, regional gov-

ernments - which manage public health spending - will be put in charge of closing the old centers, replacing them with alternative ones and overseeing the operations.

The local governments have to put forward plans for the proposed changes by January 31, 1997 or risk a cut in their health budgets.

The decision to close down the psychiatric centers was made in 1994. A similar measure, taken in 1983, was never carried out.

Some Italian towns have already experimented with alternative treatment methods replacing hospitals with day-care centers and residences staffed by night-time wardens such as in the north-eastern town of Trieste.

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SIMCAT MANAGING DIRECTOR:

No End to the Competition Demand for Quality

NOTE

Following the consecutive brilliant success of SIMCAT Company (which manufactures wires and cables in Tabriz) in the field of industrial production at home and abroad and its attainment of ISO 9002, the SIMCAT Managing Director Engineer Mohammad Ali Yazdan Panah elaborated on his company's general policies and practical programs, as well as major factors which enabled the SIMCAT to be rewarded the ISO 9002 certificate. The text of the interview follows for the benefit of the readers.



Mohammad Ali Yazdan Panah, Managing Director of SIMCAT Company

doing.
2. Do what you have defined.

Nowadays some developed countries around the world have gone so far that they draw up their municipalities' contracts only with companies that hold the ISO 9000 certificates.

STANDARDS BASED ON SYSTEM AND ORDER

In this way, the ISO 9000 certificates pertain to process standards and quality management. They are used to systematize the factors and elements of the process.

SIMCAT is the first producer of electric wires and cables in the country affiliated to the Martyrs' Foundation to have obtained the ISO 9002 certificate.

esses on the basis of a set of principles, as well as logical and academic methods. (Some of these factors are sale and purchase, quality control, calibration, process of production, store room management, training, maintenance and repair, management, documentation, etc.)

At this point, I deem it necessary to underline a subtle point: I am of the view that all discussion related to (domestic or foreign standard) revolve around the axis of order. This point has amply been stressed by Islamic ideology. The immaculate Imams (peace be upon them all) have highly recommended the issue of order. For instance, in his famous statement in the *Nahj ul-Balaghah*, Imam Ali (AS) has laid stress on this point, equating piety with order.

Without exaggeration, then, one can claim that this viewpoint of Imam Ali (AS) is the essence and backbone of all principles of domestic and foreign standard institutes. In a word, the standards referred to serve as clear indication of the statement of Imam Ali (AS) in regard to giving order to the affairs.

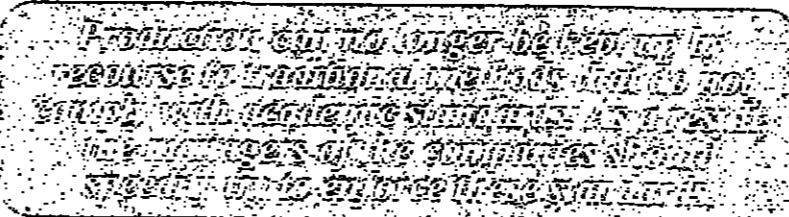
***QUESTION: What are the executive stages for implementation of ISO 9002 at SIMCAT?**

***ANSWER:** In the productive and industrial units, the officials should be able to reap benefit of competent and conscientious advisors to speedily reach their objectives.

We believe that an advisor carries out 20 percent of the work of a company, while the rest of the affairs are undertaken by others. For instance, the company itself should undertake the stages following documentation and during implementation.

Nonetheless, the active involvement of an advisor from the early stages of implementation until the end

of auditing will effectively assist the company to realize the demands set by the ISO 9000 standards and to strive to comply with them.



STEP BY STEP PATH TAKEN TO OBTAIN ISO 9002

The stages which SIMCAT underwent to obtain the ISO 9002 certificate can be outlined as below:

1. choosing an advisor
2. setting up a steering committee comprised of the factory manager, quality control manager, production manager, material manager, and advisor
3. training the entire work force
4. choosing and dispatching

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Certificate Number
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This is to certify that the Quality Management system of

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ing some of the company's personnel to undergo a domestic auditing training program

5. preparing and formulating the company's documentation in collaboration with the advisor. These include determining the quality strategy, quality regulations, executive methods, etc.

6. supervising the enforcement of the documentation

7. carrying out several auditing stages to locate areas which do not comply with the standards and to

carried out in enforcing this standard was found more difficult?

***ANSWER:** Any company that is orderly can easily enforce these standards. Such order and discipline which we term as "house-keeping" assisted the SIMCAT in obtaining the ISO 9000 certificates.

By recruiting competent personnel, installing creating order in succeeded in offering with national and international consumption

Fortunately, SIMCAT personnel management is based on systematic principles. This superior feature is a salient factor in implementing the standards. From the outset, the SIMCAT targeted the goal of high quality production as enumerated as follows:

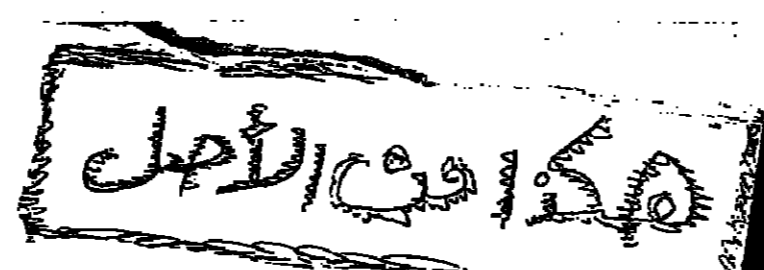
1. Our products should be in conformity with international standards.

One of the ways to compete is to obtain the R. is such that some can draw up their municipal those companies th

2. We opt for high quality production.

3. We wish to satisfy the customers as a first step. Nevertheless, the factors

***QUESTION: Which part of the large scale work**



Competition for Quality and Mand for Quality



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Zurich, July 22, 1996
The Management
[Signature]

خدمات گواهی بین المللی اس جی اس
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obtaining a credible certificate such as ISO 9002 grants the SIMCAT an international reputation for production quality. Different countries around the world regard us as a credible and experienced production company. By obtaining this certificate, we can prove the legitimacy of Iran's industries at the global level.

On the other hand, the company's products will enjoy higher quality. Thus the company can take a small

demands of the customers
2. paying heed to fostering public participation in the activities
3. fully abiding by the principle of constant improvement
I, moreover, stress, that traditional and non-standard methods will no longer be useful for production even inside the country. As a result, the managers of the companies should step up efforts to enforce these standards. Even if they are

***ANSWER:** I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the production quality, reduced waste, and offered diverse products compatible with

By obtaining a credible certificate such as ISO 9002, we will enjoy international reputation on production quality and we can easily prove Iran's industrial legitimacy.

step in the way of industrial growth and development. More importantly, the company's personnel will have to master the technical and academic know how. Finally, the Islamic Republic will gain greater reputation

not after the ISO 9002 certificate, they should at least

managing director of the Kawthar Economic Organization and its deputy for industrial affairs whose moral and material assistance paved the way for the SIMCAT to reach this glory. In addition, I wish to express gratitude to the distinguished members of the SIMCAT board of managers, managers, advisors, and hard working personnel who worked round the clock

national and international standards to the consumer market.
Thus in a short span of time, SIMCAT was chosen by credible authorities as a model industrial unit as indicated below:
*obtaining the Research and Development Permit from the Ministry of Industries in 1371
*obtaining the golden plaque of honor from the

that I will enumerate below were more difficult than the rest:

1. Control of the documentation and data: Since most companies have not been established in compatibility with the ISO 9000 demands, they face many

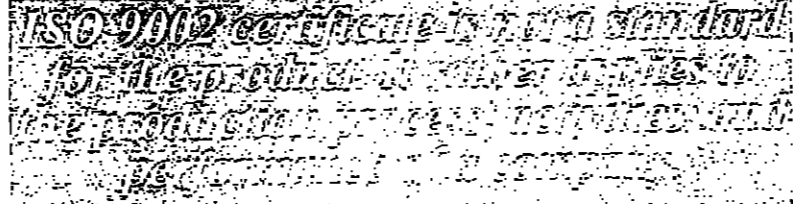
mitted and specialized modern machinery, and discipline, SIMCAT diverse goods compatible national standards to the market.

problems in preparing the draft documents, writing and recording them, coding and revising them. This problem is augmented with a view to the fact that care in these affairs -- as the links to other affairs -- would insure production quality.

2. Calibration: Due to shortage of calibration facilities at the company and the reputable laboratories,

pete in the scene of global ISO 9000 certificates. This entries around the worldilities' contracts with only at hold this certificate.

we needed longer time for calibration of the equipment. In practice, this shortcoming increased the time needed to enforce the ISO



9000 standards. I now deem it necessary to express appreciation to the staff of Iran's Institute for Standard and Industrial Research for extensive cooperation with SIMCAT.

3. Store room management: Due to the existing conditions, the companies have to purchase ample goods and material and to put them in their store rooms. Meanwhile, the scant knowledge of store room management throughout the country has in practice made this phenomenon highly problematic for the companies. (These problems include heavy costs of building store rooms, etc.)

In order to obtain the ISO 9002 certificate, the SIMCAT systematized its existing store rooms and even constructed a highly equipped and modern store room as well.

***QUESTION:** Would you kindly elaborate on the positive impacts of the attainment of ISO 9002 certificate on the SIMCAT?

***ANSWER:** Naturally,

in global field of industrial production.

***QUESTION:** How do you assess the future of Iranian companies? What are your recommendations to those managers and companies that wish to abide by these standards?

***ANSWER:** I hold that the future belongs to those companies and institutes that are ready to adhere to the following statement by the Holy Prophet (S):

Whoever carries out a task should do it very well. Without a tinge of doubt, quality assurance will, in the future, become a major criterion for global superiority. I, therefore, appeal to all

Standard relies on order. This has been amply stressed by the Islamic ideology. In other words, these standards are clear interpretations of the statement of Imam Ali (AS) who called for giving order to the affairs.

colleagues and senior managers of the companies to closely abide by the following three rudimental principles:

1. seeing to the tastes and

follow its principles and guidelines.

They should actually bear in mind that quality and demand for quality serve as an endless competition.

***QUESTION:** Your thorough and specialized explanations indicate that the SIMCAT management

has taken steps toward meticulous and principal enforcement of the said standard and reached the targets set. Do you wish to add any other point?



President Hashemi Rafsanjani awards ISO 9002 certificate to Yazdan Panah

to enable the company to reach this precious objective.

Glorious Background of SIMCAT

The cornerstone of SIMCAT was laid by the private sector in 1353 in a land with an area of 35,000 square meters. SIMCAT started limited production in 1359. In 1360, SIMCAT joined the Martyrs Foundation economic group.

After this development, SIMCAT recruited committed personnel and installed advanced machinery to produce low voltage heavy cables. Thanks to the ceaseless efforts of the experts, SIMCAT increased its production, improved the

Standard Institute (as awarded by the eminent minister of industries) and being selected as the model unit in 1372

*obtaining the badge of honor of the Standard Institute as awarded by the distinguished first vice president and being chosen as the superior unit in 1373

*obtaining the certificate of laboratory competence from Iran's Institute for Standard and Industrial Research.

At present, SIMCAT is manufacturing low pressure heavy cables up to 3 by 240 /120. In the not - too - distant future, it will start manufacturing different types of aluminum cables.

Seminar on Religious Cinema



FCF Managing Director

We cannot come up with the right answers without first clarifying the questions

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

A press conference held at the Farabi Cinema Foundations, Dr. Mohammad Rajabi stated that the Seminar on the Religious Cinema was of special interest to the minister of culture and Islamic guidance and the deputy for cinematographic affairs.

The press conference began with introductory remarks by the director of public relations of the seminar on Religious Cinema in which he explained that Dr. Rajabi, would be functioning as the chairman of the seminar.

Speaking to the reporters, Mohammad Rajabi, who is also a member of the High Council of Cultural Revolution stated that both Mostafa Mirsalim and his deputy for cinematographic affairs, Ezzatollah Zarghami were keen on having the seminar organized in the most efficient manner.

He said in the first session the seminar will make preliminary arrangements for research on religious cinema and for that reason it has invited clerics, university professors, cinematic personalities and even politicians to examine the matter and to measure the impact of the present cinema and its effect within and outside the country.

"With such a careful deliberation we will measure the distance between the present cinema and an ideal cinema," Rajabi added.

According to Rajabi an examination of the impact of the Iranian cinema in other countries, the extent to which the religious cinema marches in harmony with the dignity of the Islamic Republic, the social condition of the people, the effect of cinema on students and its role in representation of the Sacred Defense are highlights of the seminar.

"The clerics will comment on subjects related to their field, the university professors will comment on theoretical matters and politicians will assess the performance of our cinema and its impact," said the director of Farabi Foundation adding that the film directors will also express their opinions on religious cinema and the ideal goal for the Iranian cinema.

He expressed hope that the gathering will draw up clear perspectives to remove ambiguities and will introduce correct questions with regard to religious matters so that the discussion will not deviate from its right course.

The 3-day seminar will be officially inaugurated at 9 a.m. January 4 at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults on Hejab Ave.

LONDON (AP) - There's one enormous strength and a no less important weakness to Hollywood's starry new film of "Hamlet," and they are both named Kenneth Branagh.

Directing the first-ever uncut film of Shakespeare's tragedy, Branagh deserves credit for intelligently bringing the play to the screen with every syllable intact, in a 70 mm version that recalls wide-screen epic cinema of a bygone era.

But it was not enough to adapt the play and direct it. Branagh wanted to play the star part, too, as he did - to better effect - in his previous Shakespeare-inspired films, "Henry V" and "Much Ado About Nothing."

The problem has nothing to do with his fluency; if anything, the classically trained Branagh rattles almost too knowingly through the bard's most celebrated assemblage of soliloquies. (Not for him the burying of the verse beneath lots of modern, contemporary business in Baz Luhrmann's current film of "Romeo and Juliet.")

What's missing is the occasion of discovery, of cumulative revelation, that any Hamlet ought to be about. Could it be that Branagh has acted the role so often - three times on stage and once on radio - that it no longer surprises him? For good measure, he was Laertes to Roger Rees' Hamlet in a 1984 production at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Whatever the reason, he provides a coldly well-spoken center to what might have been a very hot film. With Branagh, one feels, the rhetoric is all.

That accusation otherwise doesn't apply to a cast drawn in a seemingly scatter-shot manner from Hollywood (Billy Crystal and Robin Williams); the ranks of rising British talent (Kate Winslet and Simon Russell Beale); and Branagh's own ad hoc repertory company who have appeared with him before on stage and screen (Derek Jacobi, Michael Maloney, Richard Briers).

With the likes of Gerard Depardieu, Jack Lemmon and Charlton Heston cropping up in cameo roles, Branagh has chosen an eclectically starry ensemble to move among one of literature's most fraught royal households.

Stunt casting? Sometimes, yes. Lemmon is chiefly recognizable in his few early scenes as Marcellus because he looks as if he is about to cry - this actor's later-day trademark. If you blink you'll miss Depardieu, who plays Reynaldo, servant to Briers' Polonius. Ditto theater veteran Rosemary Harris, an ever-smiling player queen to Heston's sonorous player king, as well as Sir John Gielgud and Dame Judi Dench, who are glimpsed in flashbacks so small as to be almost comically brief.

Williams' campy Osric recalls the usually unbilled cameo turns this actor has done frequently before. Sporting a thick beret and chomping a cigar, Crystal makes a game first gravedigger alongside Russell Beale, a gifted London Theater actor.

Better are the Elsinore inhabitants maneuvering their way through a sumptuously labyrinthine palace whose snowy grounds suggest imperial Russia far more



Branagh's Hamlet

than they do Denmark. (The actual site was Blenheim Palace, ancestral home of the Duke of Marlborough.)

Banishing the mannerisms that have marred some of his theater performances of late, Jacobi does his best work in years as Claudius, the newly married Machiavel whose chilling, dead eyes belie his ever-ripe speech; it's first-rate work from the actor who, interestingly, directed Branagh's first professional stage Hamlet in 1988.

Julie Christie and Kate Winslet, both newcomers to the bard, are highly compelling as an impulsive Gertrude and a baleful, hapless Ophelia, respectively. In one startling shot, Branagh films a hysterical Ophelia being cruelly

bused down.

Setting the play in a 19th century of shifting European borders, Branagh honors the status of "Hamlet" as the mother of all revenge dramas and as a story of political turmoil, with Rufus Sewell's usurping Fortinbras glimpsed on the march throughout.

What is missing is the extraordinary introspection - that sense of opening the door on a soul - that has made "Hamlet" perennially popular, for actor and audience alike.

Branagh's Hamlet is a man of action, all right, quick with the rapier and possessed of an alternately sarcastic and angry wit. But there is little sense of the sorrowful route to manhood chartered in the play in speeches of mounting eloquence and self-revelation, among which "To be or not to be" is here delivered, Branagh's fist clenched, in the showiest of stage whippers.

Small wonder that "Hamlet" can transform the actors playing it. (Daniel Day Lewis walked off stage during a London performance, claiming to have seen his own father's ghost, and has not returned to the theater since.)

Its appeal lies in the character's uniquely personal journey, which may explain why Branagh's Hamlet - if not his "Hamlet" - is oddly impersonal.

"Hamlet" is a Sony Pictures Entertainment release from Columbia Pictures of a Castle Rock Entertainment presentation. The producer is David Barron. It opened Dec. 25 in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto. Running time: four hours.

A Composer Who Can Handle Batman, Beowulf or Ballet

NEW YORK (AP) - Composer Elliot Goldenthal recalls "many a poetic night in Dublin" discussing with director Neil Jordan the music for the movie "Michael Collins."

The question was, Goldenthal says, "How Irish should it be?"

Jordan directed the movie about the Irish revolutionary and Goldenthal wrote the music.

"Neil was being very courageous to hire somebody named Elliot Goldenthal to do a score about a person some Irish people consider their equivalent of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King or Gandhi," Goldenthal says.

Originally, he says, Jordan leaned toward an Irish sound.

"Then, he felt he wanted the music to be more dramatic as opposed to Irish," the composer says. "There were Celtic themes that were both traditional and invented that sort of informed the score."

Goldenthal is best known for his film scores, including "A Time to Kill," "Cobb," "Interview with the Vampire" and "Batman Forever." But he also composes classical music and theater music.

At 42, he thinks of himself as devoted to theater and concert life and, on the side, finding a challenge in writing music for films.

"I approach a movie completely conceptually," he says. "If I can find the concept, I'm ahead of the game."

"In 'Interview with the Vampire,' the concept was vampires live a long time - or are dead a long time. As the movie goes along, it travels through the history of music, from harpsichord to piano to the Rolling Stones."

About "Batman Forever," he says, "For me, musically, it was a comic book opera, not to be taken seriously by the pillars of our cultural establishment - just like a comic book isn't."

"Yet I'm contributing to what I believe very strongly in - that comic books are the windows of myth. Many comics have the same message that can be found in the works of Aeschylus. Where else are there dragon slayers and people who fly and people who support and uplift and save the multitudes? These are beautiful things."

"In 'Batman,' I wanted the music to sound big and mythic and dark. I used a Wagnerian approach to orchestration. I balanced it with

a kind of jazzy city pace, which is exclusively American."

Goldenthal is working on the next Batman movie, for summer release. But he has had to postpone composing a trumpet and piano piece for Wynton Marsalis because he has "Juan Darien" running at Broadway's Vivian Beaumont Theater and he's writing music for a three-act "Othello" ballet Lar Lubovitch is choreographing for American Ballet Theater.

"Lar comes over every week and we go back and forth," Goldenthal says. "I'll play him stuff and he'll say it's too long or too short. What is difficult in a work like 'Othello' is that it can only exist if the emotion and jealousy is

really out there."

Goldenthal's conversation reveals an inquiring intellect. "Juan Darien," subtitled "A Carnival Mass," has turned his thoughts to the Bible and "Othello" has made him focus on conundrums in Shakespeare.

"For me, in the great works of literature there are these extremely dark chasms that the writers throw you that are unexplainable and disturbing," he says.

He found that in "Juan Darien."

"Juan Darien" is about a tiger which turns into a boy. He is given human life through the miracle of a woman's mothering love. After his mother dies, people who fear

he's really a tiger burn him at the stake. He writes Juan in his blood on the cross at his mother's grave and returns to the jungle as a tiger.

As directed and designed by Julie Taymor, the show uses puppets, people in masks, and colorful, movable jungle flora and fauna. Juan Darien is portrayed, in turn, by an animal pull toy, a baby doll, a puppet and a boy soprano.

Goldenthal was introduced to "Juan Darien" in 1973 by actress Irene Wiley who, by coincidence, is in the 19-member cast.

"It was in the guise of a children's short story, though its ramifications are hardly childlike," Goldenthal says.

"Horacio Quiroga, who wrote

it, was a very important figure in Uruguay. He died in the 1920s. Gabriel Garcia-Marquez lauded him as the father of magical realism. He was known in America as the Edgar Allan Poe of South America."

In reading "Juan Darien," Goldenthal says, "the words popped off the page in a way that gave me a physical reaction. I was mesmerized by its power. It seemed to me like a passion play and not a passion play."

"The dominant totem in South America is the jaguar. There are variations on jaguar stories which are equivalent to Jesus' passion. In 'Juan Darien' there is that elusive balance between the church invading the South American jungle and the jungle invading the church."

"One mystery is, why would Quiroga, in the continent of jaguars, call him a tiger? Maybe Quiroga was trying to deflect it from being exclusively a South American tale by saying it was set in a place far away."

"But that doesn't matter to me as a composer. The overall motivation is what gets my juices going musically."

The composer, who studied at the Manhattan School of Music, and Taymor now are working on an opera based on "Beowulf."

Errata

The headline for the interview with the Mexican ambassador to Iran, which appeared on this page on Dec. 29, was marred by an error and should read as "Bright Prospects for Expansion of Iran-Mexico Ties." IRAN NEWS regrets the error.

Bergman Making Noises on Swedish TV

Swedish director Ingmar Bergman, 78, may have officially declared his retirement from feature film directing in 1982, after *Fanny och Alexander* (*Fanny and Alexander*), but he has gone back behind the camera for *Larmer och gor sig till* (*Making Noises and Throwing Himself Around*), shooting since September 24 for Swedish public TV SVT-Drama.

However, his announcement from 14 years ago still stands. Bergman has insisted that the film, from his own original screenplay, will be aired only as a two-hour television movie, and not broken up into installments. It will not be theatrically released. Producer Ingrid Dahlberg describes it as "a comedy with touches of tragedy, and not

without autobiographical content."

In his cinema absence,



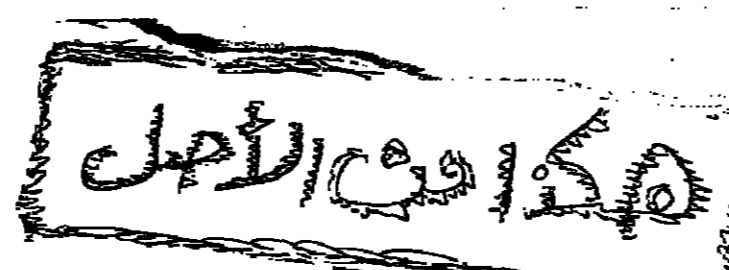
Ingmar Bergman with Bille August

Bergman, who has also resigned from stage directing at Stockholm's Dramaten, Sweden's

Royal Theater, has written several scripts, including *Den goda viljan* (*The Best Intentions*), which earned Bille August a best director's prize at Cannes, and *Sondagsbarn* (*Sunday Children*), the feature debut of his son, Daniel. Liv Ullmann's *Enskilda samtal* (*Private Confessions*) is soon to come.

The Ullmann film is also produced by Dahlberg, who has just left SVT-Drama to take over as managing director of the Dramaten. During her 10-year tenure with Swedish Television, Dahlberg developed her department into Scandinavia's largest feature-film production company.

(Courtesy Moving Pictures)



IRAN NEWS

The Year Was Full of Aviation Extremes

NEW YORK (AP) - The passing of 1996 meant an end to a year of aviation extremes, from the number of people flying to the price of tickets to the number of plane crashes. It also was a year of controversy in the United States, from new security measures to a minimum age for young pilots.

Back in '97 will be President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, who in 1996 focused on airline security after the July explosion of the Paris-bound TWA flight 800. Although the cause of the catastrophe still isn't known, the new measures include criminal background checks of more airline workers, a system to match luggage with passengers on some flights and possible computer profiles of passengers. Other recommendations may be implemented in the new year.

And in response to the May crash of a ValuJet plane in the Florida Everglades, the Clinton administration ordered fire detectors installed in the cargo holds of all jetliners.

It was the deadliest year ever in terms of airplane crashes with more than 1,185 passengers killed on commercial jet flights worldwide. There were 230 people killed on TWA flight 800 and 110 people killed on ValuJet flight 592. An on-flight collision in India

killed 349 people, and another 125 people were killed when a hijacked Ethiopian plane ran out of fuel and crashed near the Comoros Islands. U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and 34 others were killed when an air force jetliner went down in Croatia.

Ironically, in November the U.S. Transportation Department agreed to change a 1929 rule that set liability limits for international accidents at \$75,000. Instead, victims or their survivors may sue for unlimited damages.

Also killed in 1996 was 7-year-old Jessica Dubroff, who was at the controls of a single-engine plane hoping to become the youngest person to fly across the United States. The April crash that also killed her father and flight instructor prompted new legislation that bars people without a valid license from flying to set records. Pilots must be at least 17 years old to obtain a license.

A record number of passengers - more than 550 million - took to the skies in 1996. Not surprisingly, many U.S. airlines reported healthy profits for the first time in many years, although some saw higher fuel costs crimp earnings.

The number of travelers is expected to rise even higher in 1997 - and ticket prices are sure to. Many U.S. carriers have already raised their fares 10 percent for

travel early in the new year.

Back in 1996 after a five-year hiatus was Pan Am, which took to the skies again Sept. 26.

Other carriers fared less well. ValuJet was grounded for more than three months over safety concerns. The same day ValuJet resumed service, another low-cost carrier, Kiwi International Air Line, filed for bankruptcy protection.

Among airplane manufacturers, the Dutch company Fokker went under after 76 years of business for customers that included the World War I Flying Ace Red Baron. On the flip side, the European consortium Airbus made huge inroads into the U.S. market, sealing a deal to sell up to 400 jetliners to USAIR in a deal valued at up to \$18 billion.

In the most surprising development, former rivals Boeing and McDonnell Douglas decided they would join not just their commercial aviation divisions, but their military ones as well.

Elsewhere, merger talks between Delta and Continental fell apart before they really took off. British Airways and USAIR parted company, the result of BA's courtship with American Airlines. Whether the marriage goes through may be decided in 1997.

U.N. Treaty Combating Desertification Enters Force

GENEVA (AFP) - An international treaty aimed at arresting creeping desertification of the planet, a scourge threatening an estimated one billion people in poor and rich countries, came into force recently.

The U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), signed by 115 countries and ratified by 55, stemmed from the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit.

Africa, where the impact of desertification is greatest, was a main force behind the treaty, which is designed to tackle the plague with an innovative aid spending strategy and a new approach to managing dryland ecosystems.

Desertification, caused by climatic changes and human activities, is like a skin disease where patches of dry land, often miles from desert, "erupt" separately and later join together creating desert-like conditions. Two thirds of

the African continent is desert or drylands and 73 percent of its agricultural drylands, about one million hectares, are already severely or moderately degraded, the CCD secretariat says.

About one-sixth of the population of Mali and Burkina Faso in Western Africa has been uprooted from its land as it turned to dust, a factor contributing to the swelling of African urban slums. Poor African countries, often victims of severe droughts which ag-

gravate desertification, lack the resources to halt the problem.

The new treaty embodies a "bottom-up" approach, calling for local people to be involved in decision-making.

Developing countries are urged to decentralize control over the funds they receive and allow local communities and non-governmental organizations to design and carry out projects to reverse the phenomenon, the CCD secretariat said.

See Page 13

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PROMOTIONAL ITEM

A Report on Farapayk Co.'s Activities in the Field of Production of Varieties of Computer Paper Rolls

Self-Sufficiency in Producing Paper Rolls for Printers Needed by Information Centers

Farapayk can produce all computer paper rolls according to the specifications on request from customers.

The widespread use of computers within the past two decades has caused the prevalence of numerous side industries, which each of them procures a part of the minor items needed by computer users, and having constant access to them guarantees the practical use of the big and small computers. Some of these items are so important that, without them, the nation's information centers will not be able to put their services into order.

Special paper rolls is one of these necessities which are of fundamental importance. In fact, the use of computers at electricity, water, gas and telephone companies without being able to transfer the figures on special papers is useless, and regular papers are of no use. They must use the special paper rolls to continuously print the needed information on millions of bills. The finishing job done on these papers must be accurately processed.

The Importance of Paper Rolls

The need for the society's access to various services has caused the computers to become unique instruments nowadays that without them the process of reaching these services is quite difficult if not impossible. Imag-

ine the preparations of millions of utility bills by hand, and the manpower it needs. Now the same is done on paper rolls by computer printers at the fastest speed and the shortest possible time.

Thus, although, computers do all their calculations based on their special softwares, but the final work is completed when paper rolls are ready for the information to be printed on them. The manufacturing of these rolls is a side industry of the computer industry and Farapayk Co. has a major role in it.

Hamid Reza Seyed Salehi, Farapayk Co.'s managing director says that papers used in different printers are divided into two groups of "regular and special", based on their applications. Manufacturing of the regular papers with various specifications requires simple facilities, that's why there are many manufacturers of this field within the country supplying the market needs. But



The president visiting Farapayk pavilion at the international electric industry exhibition

us to satisfy the customers specifications.

Quality Control
Farapayk's managing director calls the quality of their products desirable, and matching up to the international standards, because of the highest quality papers used in making the paper rolls.

Babak Azami, a member of

Farapayk co. enjoys the support of the government by receiving foreign currency, but faces unhealthy competition in the market which allows unorthodox manufacturers to send their low quality products at high prices to the market.

the manufacturing of special papers for various applications is an extremely accurate industry, in which we have fortunately reached self-sufficiency, enabling

Farapayk's board of directors said that the quality of the papers used to make the rolls must be highest possible because of the sensitivity of the printers. Another factor is

the paper's weight which must match its application. For this reason, based on customers' needs and applications, various papers in weights of 50 to 200 grams are used. Low quality papers in practice cause speedy depreciation in printers, preventing Farapayk from using them.

"Choosing the right paper is one thing, designing, printing and processing it in a way that in various printers it has its own application is another. Paper rolls manufacturing process is quite complex, requiring extra quality control. For instance, punching paper on its fringes which enables it to work with a variety of dot matrix printers, is itself an extremely accurate process which has been made possible through the use of ultra modern equipment. As the result Farapayk has been able to manufacture library cards according to international standards, satisfying the domestic needs," Azami said.

Vast Variety of Products

Along with the expanded application of computers and expansion of various bureaus, the consumption level of regular and special paper rolls has had an eye catching increase, causing Farapayk to make a variety of sizes, prints and colors, by installing new equipment and creating new divisions.

In printing Farapayk is capable of mass production, using carbon papers, it can print one to seven copies simultaneously and even up to 11 copies using carbon-free papers in case of demand. The manufacturing of paper rolls for computer printers is done in the widths of 38 cm (132 columns), 28 cm (100 columns) and 24 cm (80 columns), according to international standards.

"Currently there are some large institutions listed among Farapayk's customers, for the simple reason that we manufacture our products according to their specifications, and they experience no complications in using them. At the same time the company respects and welcomes all customers' suggestions," Babak Azami added.

Customers' Signs of Farapayk's Efficiency

Some of Farapayk's top customers are:

- The country's tele-communications centers.

- The Ministry of Energy which provides all of its branches in Tehran, West and East Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Kurdistan, Khorasan, Kermanshah, Hormozgan.

- The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education has many applications for paper rolls including that of the universities' entrance exam, the Islamic Azad University, and the countries banking system.

Farapayk's Views on Obstacles

Farapayk Co. enjoys the support of the government by receiving foreign currency, but faces unhealthy competition in the market which allows unorthodox manufacturers to send their low quality products at high prices to the market.

Farapayk Co. emphasizes that the industry needs more support for development. The Ministry of Industries can cooperate in removing the obstacles on the way of purchasing new equipment and raw materials.

If so, the computer printers' paper roll manufacturing industry will be able to fully supply the domestic needs, using the same facilities, for a long time.

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